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Quadrennial reports for the period 2003-2006 submitted through the Secretary-General pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31*

Note by the Secretary-General

Contents

		Page
1.	Forum for Women and Development	2
2.	International Volunteerism Organization for Women, Education and Development	3
3.	Order of St. John	6
4.	Prison Fellowship International	9
5.	World Blind Union	10

* Reports submitted by non-governmental organizations are issued without formal editing.

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1. Forum for Women and Development

(Special consultative status granted in 1999)

PART I. Introduction

i. FOKUS

- is a resource centre on international women's issues
- strengthens co-operation between women's organisations in Norway in their international involvement and co-operation
- contributes to the social, economic and political empowerment of women through international project co-operation and exchange of knowledge
- is raising awareness on the situation of women in a global perspective through public relations and information activities

Activities

- co-ordinates the project co-operation which Norwegian women's organisations have with women in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Eastern Europe
- administrates funds for information activities on international women's issues carried out by Norwegian women's organisations
- organises seminars and conferences
- is actively working with authorities and organisations to ensure their implementation of women's rights
- co-ordinates preparations for international conferences and maintains active national and international networks

The common denominator for the women organisations co-operation, that takes place through FOKUS, is the desire to strengthen women's human rights, based on the United Nations' Human Rights Convention and the Women's Convention (CEDAW).

The Platform of Action by the Fourth United Nations World Conference on Women in Beijing constitutes a natural framework for FOKUS.

PART II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

i) Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or major conferences and other United Nations Meetings.

1) 46th, 47th , 48th ,50th Commission on the Status of Women, New York. FOKUS representatives attended as part of the Norwegian official delegation, as well as participants of the NGO meetings.

2) ECE Beijing + 10, (Geneva December 2004). FOKUS representatives took part in the NGO side events as well as the official meetings.

3) Beijing +10 Conference: Forty-Ninth Session of the Commission of the Status of Women (New York, United Nations Headquarters, 28 February-11 March 2005) FOKUS representatives from the Secretariat and 20 member organisations, as well as 15 partners from the South invited by FOKUS attended the NGO side events. An alternative NGO report was prepared and presented at different meetings, and a workshop on documentation as a political tool for improving women's situation was arranged.

4) The 2005 World Summit - High-Level Plenary Meeting of the 60th Session of the General Assembly (New York, United Nations Headquarters, 14-16 September 2005). FOKUS representative was a part of Norwegian official delegation and lobbied for a stronger women's perspective.

5) United Nations General Assembly High Level meeting on HIV/AIDS

(31 May - 2 June 2006, United Nations, New York). FOKUS representative attended and lobbied for the inclusion of women's situation in the outcome document.

5) IMF/World Bank Annual Meetings (Singapore, 14-20 September 2006).

FOKUS representative attended as member of Norwegian official delegation, and lobbied for the integration of a women and gender perspective.

ii) **Cooperation with United Nations bodies in the field**

In 2004, 2005 and 2006 FOKUS facilitated the Norwegian launching of the UNFPA report State of World Population, in cooperation with UNFPA Nordic office.

ii) Activities in support of global principles

25th of November, the International Day against Violence against Women has been marked in form of seminars, torch-marches, as well as national awareness raising campaigns during the whole period. The campaigns and seminars were featured in media, on a local, regional and national level.

8th of March, the international women's day is marked every year through seminars, meetings, chronicles in major newspapers etc.

FOKUS has also marked Human Rights day 10th of December, and were in a working group celebrating the Nobel Peace price winners Shirin Ebadi in 2003, Wangari Maathai in 2004.

On August 31st 2006 FOKUS together with the Norwegian network for Women and the United Nations, arranged a small demonstration as the United Nations reform high level panel had their meeting in Oslo. Our message to the reform panel was THE WORLD NEEDS A STRONG UNITED NATIONS FOR WOMEN, and that the world needs:

- A drastic upgrading of the efforts of the United Nations system as a whole to strengthen women and gender equality and

- A new full-fledged United Nations organization for women as a driving force to meet the challenges of the new millennium.

FOKUS highlights different international issues through our Magazine, Women United and our information work in general. During this period, some of the topics covered were trafficking in women, women and water; access and influence, women in and after war and conflict, violence against women, women and the United Nations, Beijing + 10 what now?, women and religion and women and sexual rights etc.

2. International Volunteerism Organization for Women, Education and Development

(Special consultative status granted in 2003)

PART I. Introduction

i. The aims and purposes of the organization and its main course of action.

VIDES promotes development education and voluntary social programmes in favour of marginalized young people, children and women; it also supports and organizes activities in the field of youth volunteers, bringing together volunteers from all over the world, to implement its projects and to promote women in developing countries and to educate various social minority groups in the light of a sustainable development. VIDES is also involved in development cooperation and education through projects in favour of youth and women at risk in the least developed countries, courses on development education for trainers and teachers, awareness campaigns through meetings and videos production.

ii. Any change on the organization vision and/or functions in terms of its orientation

Change in Statute: The Organization's aims and purposes remained the same. The first of November 2005 the Vides General Assembly determined to modify and update its statute regarding the duration of the Board of Directors: from 3 to 4 years.

New Members: the numbers of VIDES' members increased as well. New members are: Uruguay (2003), Slovakia (2004), Czech Republic (2005), Spain (2005), Guatemala (2005), Nicaragua (2005), Panama (2005), Chile (2005), Argentina (2005), Slovenia (2006).

PART II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations.

i. Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or major conferences and other United Nations meetings

2003

- "The forty-seventh session of the Commission on the Status of Women 3-13 march 2003, New York, United Nations Headquarters, United States of America." VIDES International is mostly concerned about violence against women. VIDES met NGOs interested in the same topic in order to establish a network to exchange information over the strategies to adopt preventive strategies.

- "The World Summit on the Information Society, United Nations Preparatory Commission 6-26 September 2003, Geneva Switzerland." VIDES was involved in groups working in the promotion of formal and no formal education and youth issues.

- "The 56th Annual DPI/NGO Conference "Human Security and Dignity: Fulfilling the Promise of the United Nations" 8-10 September 2003, New York, United Nations Headquarters, United States of America."

2004

- "The forty-eight session of the Commission on the Status of Women 12 January 2004, New York, United Nations Headquarters, United States of America." The concern regarding the situation of Women and Girls in Afghanistan brought VIDES to get interested to their situation once they have emigrated in Pakistan. VIDES sought contacts with other Pakistan's NGOs in order to study a project that could encourage their integration.

- "Rights and Responsibilities of NGOs in Consultative status with ECOSOC and the role of NGOs in implementing MDGs, UNDESA and Non-Governmental Organization in Consultative status meeting, 3 June 2004, Rome. VIDES learned much more about our consultative status and exchanged information with other NGOs.

- "The 57th Annual DPI/NGO Conference "Millennium Development Goals: Civil Society Takes Action" 8-10 September 2004, New York, United Nations Headquarters, United States of America." The Conference was the beginning of the commitment of all VIDES groups in order to make aware over this topic. The analyzed strategy brought the International Conference to consider the Millennium Development Goals as a fundamental way to build Peace.

2005

- "Beijing +10 Conference: Forty-Ninth Session of the Commission of the Status of Women 28 February -13 March 2005, New York, United Nations Headquarters, United States of America." After the Conference, VIDES needed, at local groups level, to implement the Millennium Development Goals in order to assure proper attention to women in all Millennium Goals.

- "The 61st session of the Commission on Human Rights 02-09 April 2005, Geneva, Switzerland." VIDES participated to the discussions over the following topics: Civil and Political Rights (item 11), Integration of Women's Human Rights (item 12), Children's Rights (item 13) and Special Groups' Rights (item 14). Concerning Women's Rights, VIDES presented two Written Statements denouncing gross violations in India, Brazil and Honduras.

- "Informal Interactive Hearings of the General Assembly, 23-24 June 2005, New York, United Nations Headquarters, United States of America". VIDES was selected as an active participant.

- "The 57th Annual DPI/NGO Conference : Our Challenge: Voices for Peace, Partnerships and Renewal" 7-9 September 2005, New York, United Nations Headquarters, United States of America." VIDES organised a workshop on the MDGs.

2006

- "The 50th session of the Commission on the Status of Women 27 February -10 March 2006, New York, United Nations Headquarters, United States of America." The VIDES' Volunteers participation to the Conference brought concrete proposals for the groups on the equal participation of women and men in decision making processes at all levels.

- "The 59th Annual DPI/NGO Conference "Unfinished Business: Effective Partnership for human security and sustainable development" Our Challenge: Voices for Peace, Partnerships and Renewal" 6-8 February 2006, New York, United States of America."

- "First Session of Human Rights Council 19/30 June 2006, Geneva, Switzerland". VIDES International presented three Written Statements: 1) the first was related to the report presented by the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography; 2) the second was related to the report presented by the Special Representative of the Secretary General for Children and armed conflict; 3) the last one was related to the report presented by the Special Rapporteur on trafficking of persons and the Special Rapporteur on violence against women.

ii. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters.

- 2006. "Enhancing the life skills of rural people to contribute to the eradication of extreme poverty, hunger and other social ills". This project is a proposed collaboration between VIDES, FAO/UNESCO ERP (Education for Rural People) Partnership, University of Pisa Centro Interdipartimentale Scienze per la Pace (CISP), and the International Institute for Human Rights, Democracy and Peace (IIHRDP).

- 2006. VIDES applied to UNESCO for collaboration on the project LIFE (Literacy Initiative for Empowerment) which is part of the United Nations Literacy Decade 2003 – 2012.

iii. Initiatives undertaken by the organization in support of internationally agreed development goals, in particular the Millennium Development Goals, which now form the basis of the global agenda for the 21st century.

VIDES International contributed to the MDGs in the following geographical regions: Central America, South America, Africa, Asia and Eastern Europe. The main actions that have been undertaken are the following:

- Goal 1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

Target 2. Reduce by half the proportion of people who suffer from hunger. ACTIONS:

- Children given nutritional care: 11,500

- Nutritional training for parents: 450

- Goal 2. Achieve universal primary education

Target 3. Ensure that all boys and girls complete a full course of primary schooling. ACTIONS:

- School material packages delivered: 12,350

- Classrooms built or renovated: 360

- Teachers trained: 1,230

- School uniforms given: 10,150

- Libraries for children achieved: 230

- Goal 3. Promote gender equality and empower women

Target 4. Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005, and at all levels by 2015. ACTIONS.

- Scholarships to let girl children attend primary school: 6,750

- Scholarships to let girl children attend secondary school: 4,300

- Scholarships to let young girls attend university: 1,245

- Goal 4. Reduce child mortality

Target 5. Reduce by two thirds the mortality rate among children under five. ACTIONS.

- Provision of general medical care: 10,600

- Vaccinations: 2,600

- Health education courses for parents: 580

- Food supplement for children: 7,600

- Goal 5. Improve maternal health

Target 6. Reduce by three quarters the maternal mortality ratio. ACTIONS:

- Provisional of general medical care: 9,450

- Training for pregnant women: 567

- Goal 7. Ensure environmental sustainability.

Target 10. Halve the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and sanitation. ACTIONS:

- Wells built: 74

- Water filters: 120

Activities in Support of Global principles: Worldwide days promoted by United Nations are regularly advised on VIDES' web-site (www.vides.org). Moreover, at a local level, we organize encounters and meetings related to the World Human Rights, International Women's Day, Universal Children's Day and International Literacy Day.

3. Order of St. John

(Special consultative status granted in 1999)

Part I – Introduction

i. Aims

The aims of the Order of St John are:

1) The encouragement and promotion of all work of humanity and charity for the relief of persons in sickness, distress, suffering or danger, without distinction of race, class or creed;

2) The rendering of aid to the sick, wounded, disabled or suffering and the promotion of such permanent organisation during times of peace as may be available in times of civil emergency;

3) The maintenance and development of the St John Eye Hospital in Jerusalem and the clinics and research projects connected with the Hospital;

4) Instruction of members of the public in the principles and practice of First Aid, nursing and hygiene; and

5) The preparation, publication and distribution of textbooks and other training aids to facilitate such instruction.

ii. Changes:

a. Amendment to the Constitution

A general updating of the Order's statutes and Regulations has been completed, effective 1st January 2004. These changes do not have any material effect to the role and function of the Order, but are reported in accordance with your guidelines.

b. Changes in Geographical Distribution

The St John Associations of Sierra Leone and St Kitts & Nevis were dissolved in 2004. The Order no longer has any activities in those territories.

Part II - Contribution of the Order to the Work of the United Nations

i. Participation in the Work of the Economic and Social Council and its Subsidiary Bodies, and/or major conferences and other United Nations meetings

The Order of St John has not found it possible to participate directly in the work of the Economic and Social Council or its subsidiary bodies, due to our continuing commitment to our relationship with The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in South Africa and our work on behalf of The United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA). It is anticipated that this situation will soon change, as our current United Nations relationships are now mature, and it will be possible for us to concentrate more fully on contributing directly to the work of The Economic and Social Council.

ii. Co-operation with United Nations Bodies and/or Specialised Agencies in the Field and/or at Headquarters

- 4 meetings of the Inter-Provincial Task Team on Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses, (IMCI) convened by UNICEF South Africa. The following documents were contributed:
  - Results of a survey done by IMCI fieldworkers in Nyanga (January 2003);
  - An evaluation of the St John IMCI training (January 2003);
  - Report on fieldworkers' activities in Nyanga IMCI project (April 2003);
  - Employment, monitoring and supervision package for IMCI co-ordinators and fieldworkers in the Western Cape Province (June 2003);
  - Progress report on IMCI pilot project Nyanga to September 2003.
  - Preparation for Evaluation Report on IMCI by International Health and Development Consultant to WHO and Paediatric Health Director, UNICEF, South Africa: 10th October 2004 at St John in Nyanga, Cape Town.
- The IMCI Pilot Project in Nyanga, came to an end in June 2003, but St John continues to employ fieldworkers in Nyanga and to train community health workers to extend IMCI into the health districts adjacent to Nyanga.
- Continued treatment of UNRWA patients at the St John Eye Hospital, Jerusalem, funded annually by UNWRA at US$ 200,000.

iii. Initiatives undertaken by The Order of St John in Support of Internationally agreed Development Goals

a) Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

The Order of St John contributed to the MDGs in Africa, as follows:

Goal 4: Reduce Childhood Mortality

Target 5: Reduce by two-thirds the mortality rate amongst children under 5.

Actions:

- IMCI Project, Nyanga, Cape Town, South Africa:
  - 362 community health workers trained to implement the Household and Community component of IMCI
  - 38,401 visits paid to 1,750 families with at-risk children under 5

- Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) reduced from a peak in 2002 of 56.51 deaths per 1,000 live births to 39.89 in 2004 (latest figures available).

- Primary healthcare project, Malawi.
  - Trained 44 community health workers;
  - Participated in immunisation of 42,903 under-fives with local district nurses.
  - Undertook growth monitoring of 69,647 infants and children;
  - Participated in Measles immunisation programme reaching 14,000 children.
  - Provided advice to mothers of 942 malnourished children.

Goal 5: Improve Maternal Health

Target 6: Reduce maternal mortality rate by three-quarters.

Actions:

- Media campaign emphasised Key Family Practise in the nutrition and care of pregnant women, targeting 70,000 homes in Nyanga/Khayalitsha, South Africa.
- In Malawi, trained 44 community health workers and reached 32,764 people through home visits aimed at health education, encouragement of referrals and wider health issues.

Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other diseases

Target 7: Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS

- Launched an integrated training programme of Home Based Care developed by the Priory for South Africa, to be progressively rolled out in South Africa.
- HIV/AIDS awareness incorporated in First Aid and Home Based Care training in South Africa. 11,368 persons trained; 1,828 at advanced level.
- Raised internal funds for the expansion of Home Based Care training into other countries in Africa where St John is present.
- Training programme launched in Kenya in 2004, achieved the following:
  - 56 trainers of trainers trained in Home Based Care.
  - 1,336 community health workers trained.
  - 542 additional care-givers trained;
  - 2,780 people living with HIV/AIDS reached;
  - 1,348 peer-educators trained;
  - 25,156 people reached by those peer-educators.
- In Malawi, 15 people trained in Home Based Care, 12 as instructors.
- In Zimbabwe, 14 people trained in Home Based Care, all qualified as instructors.
- In Uganda, 15 people trained in Home Based Care.

2) Activities in support of the general principles of the United Nations to empower communities to manage basic health and safety in their community and improve their general standard of living.

- St John Ophthalmic Hospital, Jerusalem (including Gaza and Hebron Clinics)
  - Number of outpatients – 198,981

- Number of operations (major and minor) – 15,668
- Number of in-patients – 10,461
- Number of outreach patients – 35,888.

- 4,385 people trained in First Aid in South Africa - 1,745 at advanced level.
- 90,804 tested in 14 St John Ambulance eye clinics in South Africa, of whom 63,933 were supplied with spectacles and 6,003 were referred to hospitals.

4. Prison Fellowship International

(Special consultative status granted in 1983)

Part I. Introduction

1. Prison Fellowship International (PFI) is a voluntary association of national Prison Fellowship organizations in 110 countries. PFI is involved in a broad range of criminal justice concerns and works through its affiliate organizations to promote participation in criminal justice. PFI provides a world-wide forum for discussing issues and developing awareness concerning crime and the treatment of offenders.

2. PFI is governed by an international Board of Directors comprised of two elected representatives from each of the six geographical regions that it serves (Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, North America and the Caribbean and the Pacific). The Board represents a broad based membership of community leaders, criminal justice officials, and concerned citizens. PFI maintains offices and staff in Europe, Asia, Pacific and North America.

3. PFI has significant interests in United Nations activities concerned with crime and the treatment of Offenders, human rights, women, youth and the family, relief and development, peace, and religious freedom.

Part II. Contribution of the Organization to the United Nations

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its Subsidiary Bodies

4. PFI has been extensively involved in as a member of the Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (New York).

   - PFI's Programme Manager for the Centre for Justice and Reconciliation participated in regular meetings of the Alliance (the second Friday of January, March, May, July, September November each year).
   - For the period of 2002-2005, the PFI's Programme Manager served as member-at-large of the board of directors of the Alliance.
   - PFI's Executive Director of the Centre for Justice and Reconciliation and Programme Manager participated in the Working Party on Restorative justice and an ad hoc committee organizing NGO participation at the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice hosted by the Government of Thailand in Bangkok, 18-25 April 2005.
   - PFI sent two delegates to the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice hosted by the Government of Thailand in Bangkok, 18-25 April 2005. It conducted ancillary sessions on Restorative Justice. PFI's Executive Director for the Centre for Justice and Reconciliation participated in Workshop 2: Enhancing Criminal Justice Reform Including Restorative Justice on 22 April 2005. PFI also made two interventions related to Standards and Norms and Corruption.

Co-operation with United Nations Bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

5. The PFI Executive Director for the Centre for Justice and Reconciliation participate in Expert Committee meetings organized by the United Nations office on Drugs and Crime on issues related to criminal justice including the editing of the Handbook on Restorative Justice (Vienna, Austria, 28 January – 1 February 2006) and the Criminal Justice Assessment Toolkit (Belgium, 24-29 July 2006).

6. PFI maintained regular efforts to inform its leadership and membership about the United Nations and to encourage support for United Nations activities. PFI maintained two representatives at the United Nations Headquarters (New York, Geneva, and Vienna). Information and news related to United Nations activities were sent to PFI national affiliates regularly and was disseminated through PFI's various publications and websites.

5. World Blind Union

(General consultative status granted in 1999)

The World Blind Union (WBU) is the only organisation entitled to speak on behalf of blind and partially sighted persons of the world, representing 162 million blind and visually impaired persons from about 600 organisations in 178 countries. The WBU is a non-political, non-religious, non-governmental and non-profit-making organization, working with advocacy towards governments, legislators and United Nations-agencies to promote the Human rights of blind and visually impaired persons.

In August 2006 WBU inaugurated its first permanent office in Toronto, Canada with Ms. Penny Hartin as CEO. The CEO will be committed to most of the running administrative tasks jointly with elected officers.

WBU has participated and contributed to a high extent to the work of ECOSOC and United Nations bodies and specialized agencies during the period 2003-2006, through WBU main representative Ms. Kicki Nordström (up til December 2004 WBU president and thereafter Immediate Past president and current Chair for the WBU committee on cooperation with the United Nations and its agencies). Unless otherwise specified, the participation in the activities below concerns Ms. Nordström.

2003

- Meeting with IDA and United Nations agencies (WHO, ILO, UNESCO and former United Nations Special rapporteur on disability), Almåsa, Sweden, February 28, 2003 to define strategies towards an inclusion of the supplement into the Standard Rules on equalization of opportunities for persons with disabilities
- The 59th session of UNHCHR in Geneva, April 7-8, 2003, to observe and provide input under item 14 on the agenda "Other vulnerable groups and individuals - Disability".
- Speaker to the United Nations Committee on the rights of the child in Geneva, September 29-30, 2003 combined with an up-date on the progress of the WSIS and visit to the Disability and Rehabilitation team at WHO.
- Key address speaker on behalf of Civil Societies in connection with the first WSIS conference in Geneva, December 3, 2003.

2004

- 2nd United Nations Ad Hoc Committee meeting , New York, 5-16 January 2004, to propose a text for a convention on disability to be presented to the Ad Hoc Committee, convening the 24 May - 4 June 2004.
- The 42nd United Nations Commission for Social Development, New York, 4 – 15 February 2004, to provide input on item 3 on the agenda under (b) Review of relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups: (ii) Equalization of opportunities for persons with disabilities, dealing with the Supplement to the United Nations Standard Rules.
- Meeting with Sir John Daniel UNESCO, 29 March, 2004, to discuss matters of common concern to the WBU and the UNESCO.
- Informal Inter Agency Meeting held at UNESCO Headquarter, Paris 26 March 2004 for an update of ongoing programs and policies in the disability sector.
- 60th session of the Commission on Human Rights in Geneva, Switzerland 6-8 April 2004 a) to participate as a representative of the International Disability Alliance (IDA) of which WBU is member, in a panel discussion arranged by the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights (OHCHR), April 6 b) on behalf of IDA, to

address the Commission on Human Rights under point 14d on the Agenda, "persons with Disabilities", c) on behalf of WBU, meet with Dr. Lee, Director General of the World Health Organisation (WHO).

- The 3rd Ad Hoc Committee Meeting, New York, USA 23 May – 5 June, 2004. This was the first real negotiation of a draft text.

2005

- The 5th United Nations Ad hoc Committee meeting, New York, USA, 23 January – 5 February 2005. The convention was one step closer to its realisation after this AHC meeting.
- Steering committee meeting with the UNESCO Flagship on disability: Towards Inclusion. 5 February, 2005.
- Meeting with the DAR-team of WHO, 11-12 April 2005 held at WHO head office, Geneva Switzerland to discuss matters of common interest such as the World Report on Disability as the Plan of Action (POA) for the newly re-organised DAR team.
- Meeting with UNESCO at UNESCO head quarter, Paris, France May 17, 2005 to introduce the ICEVI to UNESCO's Flagship on Teacher's Training. The meeting also took up matters of mutual interest for both ICEVI and WBU.
- Report from the Panel of Experts meeting, 7 of August 2005, Millennium United Nations Plaza Hotel New York, United States of America, to introduce the SR to the International Disability movement in order to enhance credibility and trust.
- The 6th United Nations AHC meeting held in New York, 1-12 August 2005, to carry out a second reading of the articles from 15-25 of the United Nations Convention on a comprehensive and integral international convention on the protection and promotion of the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities.
- The third Preparatory Committee meeting to the World Summit on Information Society (WSIS), Geneva, 19-30 October 2005, to prepare for the second phase of the WSIS.
- The WSIS and the role of Local Authorities held in Bilbao , Spain, 9-11 November 2005 to formulate a vision of the future Information and Communication Technology Society in a declaration with resolutions to be put forward to the up-coming meeting in Tunis.
- The World Summit on Information Society (WSIS) held in Tunis, Tunisia, 13-18 November 2005. The most concrete result was the adoption of the Global Disability Forum Declaration.

2006

- The 7th United Nations AHC meeting, New York, United States of America, 16 January - 3 February 2006 to start the actual negotiation process of the text.
- UNESCO Flagship on Education for Persons with Disabilities: Towards Inclusion meeting, 12 August, 2005 Helmsley Hotel, New York, to discuss the new secretariat in Finland, etc.
- 8th Ad Hoc Committee meeting, New York 14–25 August, to advocate on behalf of WBU/IDA and IDC to ensure that critical issues were included in the text.
- Human Rights Commission session 18 September - 6 October, Geneva, Switzerland, which coincided with another mission in Geneva. WBU attended the two first days of the second session of the Human Rights Council.

WBU initiatives undertaken in support of the United Nations Millennium Goals are associated with MDG no 2: Achieve universal primary education and to ensure that children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling. The negotiations during Ad hoc meetings where the final text includes the mentioning of Braille and where special education is stressed, are examples of WBU commitment in line with this MDG. Other commitments include the cooperation with UNESCO Flagship Education for all, which also involves the publication of a book, The invisible child, edited by WBU, UNESCO and ONCE in Spain and written in cooperation with members of the WBU Child Committee.

MDG No 3 concerning the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women is another focal point of WBUs work, where the WBU Women's committee under its former chair Ms. Nordström carried out leadership seminars for women in all 6 WBU regions. Furthermore, the quadrennial Women's Forum, which precedes the WBU General Assembly gathers women from the whole WBU membership for empowerment and training reasons. As a result, the number of women in WBU leading positions has multiplied.

The WBU working group on technology has participated in line with the goal stated in MDG No 8 - Develop a global partnership for development and in particular concerning benefits of new technologies through its commitment in the WSIS work, where WBU members put focus on the requirements of blind and visually impaired persons to have full access to information and communication technologies.

Activities in Support of Global Principles, such as Full Human Rights for Persons with disabilities have held a strong position on the WBU agenda which is manifested through extensive commitment as far as participation in the Ad hoc meetings and other advocacy missions in order to promote the work towards a disability convention.

WBU should however perform even better in the implementation of United Nations programmes if not for the following problems:

a) Information from United Nations agencies posted in formats not accessible for blind and visually impaired readers. Please avoid Adobe, PDF and power point formats. Please feel free to contact WBU in case of doubts.

b) Funding for participation in United Nations meetings is a major problem as disability is no priority on the agenda among funding agencies.

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Contents

		Page
1.	Chinese Association for International Understanding	2
2.	Institute for Global Environmental Strategies	5
3.	International Confederation for Family Support	7
4.	Millennium Institute	9
5.	National Alliance of Women's Organizations	11

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1. Chinese Association for International Understanding

(Special consultative status granted in 2003)

I. Introduction

Founded in September 1981 and sponsored by and composed of political parties, social organizations, prominent personages, scholars and social activists from all walks of life in China, the Chinese Association for International Understanding (CAFIU) is one of the most influential national non-governmental organizations in China with its relations with over 250 organizations, political parties, research institutes in more than 110 countries.

Aiming at enhancing mutual understanding and friendship between China and other countries, safeguarding world peace and promoting common development, CAFIU has been carrying out various activities in the hope to "Let the world understand China, and let China understand the world", including study visits, friendly exchanges, participations in bilateral and multilateral activities of other international NGOs as well as the United Nations, organization of seminars and workshops on different topics, cooperation with foreign NGOs engaged in development and poverty alleviation programmes in China.

CAFIU has been a full member of the Conference of Non-governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations (CONGO) since October 2003.

II. Participation in United Nations meetings

(1) CAFIU representatives attended the 57th, 58th and 59th Annual Conference of the DPI (Department of Public Information)/NGO of the United Nations in New York in September of 2004, 2005 and 2006, and made presentations on Chinese NGOs' poverty-relief efforts at the 58th conference and co-sponsored workshops on human security and sustainable development at the 59th one.

(2) CAFIU representatives attended the High Level Segment of the Economic and Social Council and made presentations on China's employment policy and Chinese NGO's endeavours on implementing the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in Geneva in June 2006.

(3) CAFIU representatives attended the Annual Meeting of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights in March of 2005 and 2006 in Geneva, and made speeches on China's human rights situation and Chinese NGO's role in human rights development at NGOs side events.

(4) CAFIU representatives attended the related meetings/activities as well as the NGO's forums in the 1st and 2nd phase of the World Summit on Information Society (WSIS) held in Switzerland and Tunisia in December 2003 and November 2005 respectively, and hosted the workshop entitled "The Chinese NGOs in the civil society, the role as a bridge in Information Communication Technology (ICT) and the United Nations Millennium Development Goals" at NGOs Forum in the 2nd phase.

III. Cooperation with UN entities and agencies

(1) Invited Mr. Ramu Damodaran, Director of the Civil Society Service Office of the DPI of the United Nations and Mme. Joan Kirby, Chairwoman of the Executive Committee of the 58th DPI/NGO Annual Conference to China for a visit and to attend the Chinese NGOs Forum-Mimic 58th DPI/NGO Annual Conference of the United Nations co-hosted by CAFIU and other Chinese NGOs in Beijing from 3 to 10 July, 2005.

(2) CAFIU representative attended the 58th and 59th Annual Session of the World Health Assembly in Geneva in May of 2005 and 2006.

IV. Endeavours in implementing the Millennium Development Goals

• In 2003

– 1 million US dollar worth of medical equipments from the Assist International, a NGO in the United States of America, and Rotary Clubs from California, the United States of America to the local hospital in Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region in China. One million people benefited.

– A primary school in Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region funded by French Catholic Committee Against Hunger and for Development (CCFD) was completed, more than 200 pupils benefited.

• In 2004

– 125,000 US dollar fund donation from Rotary Clubs of Australia and New Zealand for the water projects in Hebei and Shaanxi Provinces in China. 80,000 people benefited.

– 25,000 US dollar worth of educational facilities from Japanese Berupokai to the local schools in Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous region, more than 400 pupils benefited.

• In 2005

– 125,000 US dollar fund donation from the Rotary Clubs of Australia and New Zealand for 43 projects in Shaanxi Province in China, including:

(a) 15 water projects. 258 households benefited.

(b) 18 educational projects. 3,795 teachers and students benefited.

(c) 2 local medical service projects. 50,000 people benefited.

(d) 18 women projects. 157 households benefited.

– 25,000 US dollar fund donation from Japanese Berupokai for the local halite exploitation and education project in Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, more than 50,000 people benefited.

• In 2006

– 8,750 US dollar worth of computers from Japanese Buraku Liberation League to the local school in Shaanxi Province, 400 pupils benefited.

– 50,000 US dollar fund donation from Australian Rotary Club to Shaanxi Province for local water project and 25,000 US dollar fund donation from

Japanese Berupokai for far-distance education in local school in Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, more than 50,000 people benefited.

V. Other activities

(1) Symposiums and Workshops

- Co-sponsored with Friedrich Ebert Stiftung of Germany (FES) the Sino-Germany Human Rights Dialogue from 1999 to 2006 annually, covering the subjects on women, youth, the civil society, legislation/laws, etc.
- Co-sponsored with FES the Sino-Germany Comprehensive Security Symposium from 2001 to 2006 annually, on international hot issues such as regional security, energy security, Middle East situation, etc.
- Co-sponsored with Japanese Kazankai the symposium on International Cooperation in North East Asia in November 2003, co-sponsored with some Japanese organizations the 2nd and 3rd New Century Sino-Japanese Symposium on the Asian Situation and Peace in November 2004 and 2006 respectively.

(2) Friendly Exchanges

- About 30 in-coming and out-going people-to-people friendly exchanges with other countries every year from 2003 to 2006, to increase mutual understanding and promote dialogues among different civilizations.
- Invited some friends from the United States of America and Japan to commemorating activities in Beijing on the occasion of the 60th Anniversary of the End of WW II in August 2005.

(3) Participations in the International NGOs Activities

- CAFIU representatives attended the 5th and 6th Asia and Europe People's Forum, the parallel event of the Asia and Europe Summit Meeting (AESM) held in Viet Nam and Finland in October 2004 and September 2006 respectively, and also attended three preparatory meetings of the Forum from 2005 to 2006.
- CAFIU representatives attended the Civil Society Forum organized by CONGO in Geneva and co-sponsored a workshop, "Implementing the MDGs and Generating Employment" in June 2006.
- CAFIU representatives attended the 4th, 5th and 6th World Social Forum (WSF) held in Brazil (Porto Alegre), India (Bombay) and Pakistan (Karachi) in 2004, 2005 and 2006 respectively, and organized relevant workshops and exhibitions on the Forums.

2. Institute for Global Environmental Strategies

(Special consultative status granted in 2003)

Part I: Introduction

1) The aims and purposes of IGES and its main course of action

IGES is a research institute that conducts pragmatic and innovative strategic policy research to support sustainable development in the Asia-Pacific region.

2) Changes

Additions to the signatory organisations of the charter for the establishment of IGES: The Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) and United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) signed the charter, which has strengthened the global network of IGES.

Establishment of regional offices: IGES established regional offices in Bangkok and Beijing to develop research activities multilaterally with various entities in the Asia Pacific region.

Merger with an intergovernmental network: The Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN) was merged with IGES, which has strengthened IGES' research network.

Part II. Major contribution of IGES to the work of the United Nations

1) Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or major conferences and other United Nations meetings

The Ninth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP9), 1-12 December 2003, Milan, Italy: IGES jointly organised side events "Global Climate Regime Beyond 2012: Incentives for Everyone!" on 3 December and "Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) in Asia: Opportunities and Obstacles" on 5 December.

COP10, 6-17 December 2004, Buenos Aires, Argentina: IGES organized side events "Mainstreaming Adaptation in Development: Idealistic or Realistic?" on 11 December, and "The Kyoto Train: Where Do We Go Next?" and "Next Steps for CDM Activities: Gaps and Ways to Overcome" on 15 December.

The 13th Session of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), 11-22 April 2005, United Nations Headquarters, New York, USA: IGES made a presentation on the outlines and current situation of Water Environment Partnership in Asia at the side event "Challenges of Portfolio of Water Actions" on 19 April.

COP11 and the First Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (COP/MOP1), 28 November to 9 December 2005, Montreal, Canada: IGES organized side events "Asian Concerns on the Climate Regime Beyond 2012: Are You Concerned?" on 2 December and "Adaptation to Climate Change: Pathways into the Future Beyond 2012" on 5 December.

The 14th Session of the CSD, 1-12 May 2006, United Nations Headquarters, New York, USA: IGES organized a side event "Asian Concerns and Perspectives on the Future Climate Regime: Implications for Sustainable Development" on 4 May.

The Third Session of the World Urban Forum (WUF3), 19-23 June 2006, Vancouver, Canada: IGES organized a networking event "Integrating Global Concerns into Urban Management in Asia: Challenges and Experiences" on 20 June.

COP12 and COP/MOP2, 6-17 November 2006, Nairobi, Kenya: IGES organized side events "CDM for Sustainable Development: Dream or Reality?" on 8 November and "Asian Aspirations for Climate Regime Beyond 2012" on 10 November.

2) Cooperation with United Nations bodies

i) Joint organization of the workshops, seminars and meetings

2004: IGES organized with UNEP Risoe Centre on Energy, Climate and Development (URC) "International Workshop on Adaptation to Climate Change in Pacific Island Countries" on 12-13 October and "International Seminar on CDM in Pacific Island Countries" on 14 October in Apia, Samoa.

2005: IGES hosted with UNESCAP, URC and other organizations "Workshop on Financing Modalities of CDM" on 27-28 June in Jakarta, Indonesia.

2006: At the Fourth World Water Forum in Mexico City, Mexico, IGES co-organized "Shared Groundwater Resources for Sustainable Development" with United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and others on 17 March and another session "Water Accounting and Information Platforms" with United Nations University and others on 20 March. IGES and the UNESCAP organized a meeting "Asia-Pacific Dialogue on Innovative Options for Non-Annex 1 Countries' Participation for Climate Change Action" on 29 March in Bangkok, Thailand. IGES and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) held the workshop "Developing a Regional Strategy for the CDM in the Asia-Pacific Region" on 30-31 March in Bangkok, Thailand.

ii) Joint activities and research

Kitakyushu Initiative for a Clean Environment, a programme of UNESCAP: With secretariat support from IGES, a range of activities has been developed.

Research on Innovative and Strategic Policy Options (RISPO), a partnership project under the UNEP Network of Institutions for Sustainable Development (UNEP-NISD): IGES serves as one of the core members of the project.

The Asia-Pacific Forum for Environment and Development (APFED), collaboration with UNEP and UNESCAP: IGES serves as a secretariat for the forum. The APFED final report was launched at the side event co-hosted by IGES in conjunction with the fifth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development (MCED2005).

Global Environmental Outlook 4 (GEO4), initiated by UNEP: The contribution of IGES are the regional chapter, policy chapter and the summary for the policymakers.

The 3R (Reduce, Reuse and Recycle) Initiative: IGES has been working closely with the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific of UNEP (UNEP/ROAP) and the United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD) for this initiative.

Priority Paper on Sustainable Development for Northeast Asia: Commissioned by the UNEP Regional Resource Centre for Asia and the Pacific (UNEP RRC. AP), IGES prepared a draft on sustainable development for Northeast Asia.

State of the Environment for Northeast Asia 2005: Commissioned by UNESCAP, IGES drafted chapter 7 on Northeast Asian subregion for the MCED 2005.

3) Initiative undertaken by IGES in support of internationally agreed development goals, in particular, the Millennium Development Goals, which now form the basis of the global agenda for the 21st century.

IGES has set up a research programme on environmental education to contribute to the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD). Some of the papers were utilized in policy formulation for local government in Asia.

3. International Confederation for Family Support

(Special consultative status granted in 1999)

Part I. Introduction

The International Confederation for Family Support (CIAF) is an International Organization that gathers autonomous member organizations in Argentina, Uruguay, Peru, Mexico, Venezuela, South Africa, India and Haiti. Its date of registration is 2 September 1995.

The main objectives of the institution are to:

1) Welcome children in a free, home-like day-care centre, so their parents can work without leaving them in risk.

2) Offer children a healthy and adequate environment, where they can receive pedagogic support, as well as a moral and religious education in a pluralistic and ecumenical approach.

3) Prevent juvenile delinquency and children abandonment, preventing children to remain without contention and to become street children.

4) Help families to integrate better, and improve their social and educational conditions.

In Argentina, two centres were inaugurated in 2002, two more in 2004 and one in 2005.

During the 10th CIAF International Assembly held in September 2006, CIAF arise 169 centres all over Argentina and 197 centres all around the world. Major growth has been seen in Peru. During that meeting, representatives of all centres belonging to CIAF worked together on a new working methodology, an activation model aimed at enabling children, teenagers and adults to become socially active members in the search of solutions to their own necessities.

CIAF continues working in the three poorest continents, Latin America, Asia and Africa.

Part II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

i) Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or major conferences and other United Nations meetings.

2003: Participation in 56th Annual Conference for Non-Governmental Organizations associated with the United Nations Department of Public Information held at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 8-10 September 2003.

2004: Representatives attended the 48th session of the Commission on the Status of Women.

2005: Representatives attended the 49th session of the Commission on the Status of Women, from 28 February to 11 March.

2006: Representatives went to Geneva in May 2006 and had a meeting with the Vice-President of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, Norberto Liwsky.

ii) Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters.

The organization has not participated during this period in preparation of papers or studies, joint sponsorship or projects with United Nations bodies.

iii) Initiatives undertaken by the organization in support of internationally agreed development goals.

1) Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

The organization contributed to the Millennium Development Goals in Latin America, South Africa and India.

Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

Children fed in CIAF centres: 11,000 daily

Nutrition training for mothers: 3,940

Nutrition security programme established: 12 community farms and 240 family farms

Goal 2: Achieve primary education

Children given school daily support: 11,000

Libraries established: 20

Programmes to contact children's schoolteachers and centre's teachers to work together: 197

Goal 3: Promote gender equality and the empowerment of women

Facilitation of parent work activities while children are in the centres: 2,955 parents

Education Programmes for parents, especially mothers in issues related to Literacy plans, Marital and Family violence, Preventive medicine, etc.: 5,000

Organization of enterprises and workshops to get an economic income: 18 enterprises

Goal 4: Reduce infant and child mortality:

Education of parent in nutrition, sexual education and family: 3,500 parents

Children under five given a complete and healthy diet: 3,200

Goal 5: Improve maternal health:

Sexual education and family planning training: 2,955

Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability

Drinking waters provision as part of the nutrition security programme: 5

Neighbourhood promoting enterprises: 197

2) Activities in support of Global Principles

Our contribution to the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family was taking the programme, strategy and objectives of the tenth anniversary to a national and international level, strengthening channels of communication between United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations; enhancing research capacity for family policy development.

Luxma, the Peruvian Federation for Family Support, developed with Integradem, the Project "Quality Education, a right for everyone" to training, build and equip the first Ecological Kindergarten in Peru. They also opened a Development Centre in a rural area near Torreón, to aim young women at improving their incomes and creating a cooperative for training and facilitate job collocation.

In 2004 a Socioproductive Inclusion and Nutrition Security Project, approved by Spain, was put into practice. Twelve community farms, 27 enterprises linked to agro-nutrition, sanitary preventive courses, enterprises that are not necessarily related with nutrition, preventive habits. It is about guaranteeing nutrition safety and promoting socio-productive reinsertion in Argentinean families in a sustainable way.

Family Support started in March 2006 a radio programme broadcast every Monday noon at AM 1390 called ENTRE REDES. The programme focuses on social issues related to family and childhood, and in each programme there is an interview with a different Centre belonging to CIAF where they explain their history, progress, necessities, etc.

To continue expanding and spreading CIAF work methodology, the second edition of Institutional Book "On the way to solidarity, a social transformation" was edited in October 2006 in Spanish, English, French and Portuguese.

4. Millennium Institute

(Special consultative status granted in 2003)

Part I: Introduction

Millennium Institute (MI) is a non-profit development research and service organization with a mission to promote sustainable development worldwide. Our wish is of a world that is sustainable, equitable and peaceful for the present and

future generations. We strive to accomplish this mission through providing integrated modelling tools and capacity-building in System Dynamics for government, civil society, and private sector stakeholders, to conduct comprehensive and long-term development analysis and planning.

Part II: Contribution to the work of the United Nations

Participation in United Nations Meetings

2005: Member, Board of Trustees attended the following meeting in Europe related to trade and development: Geneva, Switzerland 21-23 October.

2006: Member, Board of Trustees attended the following meetings in Europe related to sustainable development and migration and remittances: Geneva, Switzerland 4-6 October; Geneva, Switzerland 26 June.

Cooperation with United Nations Bodies

i. Technical assistance to United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) for preparation of the African Environmental Outlook 2 (AEO2) report in 2006.

ii. Organized workshop in collaboration with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Regional Bureau for Africa for policymakers and planners from planning ministries of 11 Eastern and Southern African countries, 2006.

Millennium Development Goals-related Activities

i. MI refined its Threshold 21 (T21) macroeconomic planning model to support monitoring and evaluating progress towards attaining the MDGs. Twenty-four (24) of the 48 MDG indicators are now implemented in T21, thus enabling countries to perform simulations such as evaluating policies and strategies that are most effective for achieving the MDG; and estimating the investment required to meet them.

ii. MI partnered with UNDP and United Nations Millennium Project to conduct an assessment of the best strategy and estimate the cost of meeting the MDGs in Ghana. The analysis showed, among other things, that using an integrated planning approach that considers cross-sectoral interdependency, typical costs for meeting the MDG in Ghana could be reduced by as much as 20 per cent.

iii. MI developed macroeconomic models for Mozambique, Mali, Malawi, Jamaica, to support analysis of policies and strategies to achieve sustainable human development, in particular, relating to the MDGs.

5. National Alliance of Women's Organizations

(Special consultative status granted 1999)

Part 1: Introduction

i) Aim and purpose

The main objects of the Organization are to promote education on the position of women and on the inequalities which have been imposed on them by law and custom. To achieve this the National Alliance of Women's Organizations (NAWO) works towards eradicating discrimination on the basis of gender alone by raising public awareness, lobbying governments at national and international levels and liaising with other Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). Members are women's organizations, women's sections of other organizations and individuals sharing the goal of gender equality. Members are located throughout the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. By informing and enabling women and their organizations to lobby and campaign, NAWO through consultation, and in partnership with other women's organizations, works to ensure that women's voices are heard and attended to both nationally and at European and international levels.

ii) Significant impact

a) Change to the Constitution: Whilst confirming that the objects of NAWO remain unchanged the revisions to the Constitution — passed at a special meeting on 26 November 2003 — updated administrative and procedural provisions. Submitted to the Charity Commission, established by law as the regulator and registrar for charities in England and Wales, they were confirmed by letter from the Charity Commission dated 30 April 2004. This has encouraged and effected a wider participation in our work from our membership.

b) Funding: In October 2003 NAWO received a grant from an independent trust enabling it to formalize office arrangements and employ a part-time administrator. In addition this has had the effect of giving NAWO an enhanced and greater profile within the women's movement. This funding has enabled NAWO to substantially increase its reach and work regionally in England; NAWO is a second tier organization and has always sought to respond especially to the needs of smaller and more grass-roots organizations particularly in capacity-building. In June 2004 NAWO received funding from the EU enabling NAWO to hold four regional meetings on the "Role of civil society in a new EU Constitution".

Part II

i) Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or conferences and other United Nations meetings

Since 1999, NAWO has attended and played an active role in NGO participation at the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) as well as submitting written statements. As well as lobbying particular delegates NAWO has also taken the opportunity to meet with the European Union delegation and European NGOs whilst attending CSW. In addition, NAWO works together with other NGOs in a larger geographical grouping through its membership of the European Women's Lobby.

Commission on the Status of Women: 47th session New York United States of America March 2003. A written statement was submitted on "The participation and access of women to the media and information technologies and their impact on and use as an instrument for the advancement and empowerment of women, and on violence against women". Representatives from NAWO attended CSW. In partnership with other United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland non-governmental organizations, NAWO actively supported the side event entitled "You Can't Beat Women, High and Low Ways To Protect Women Against Violence".

World Summit on the Information Society, part 1 Geneva 1-2 December 2003. NAWO was represented at this.

Commission on the Status of Women: 48th session New York United States of America March 2004. A written statement was submitted on Theme 3: "Women's Roles in equal participation in conflict prevention, conflict management, conflict resolution, and peace building"; NAWO representatives attended CSW and ran a side event in partnership with the Women's National Commission (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) supported by other United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland NGOs entitled "1325 on trial: A Tribunal investigating the implementation of UN SCR 1325".

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development XI Eleventh session of the Conference 13-18 June 2004 São Paulo, Brazil. — Chair of NAWO attended the round table, representing the Gender Expert Group on Trade from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and was a key speaker at the special session — Panel on gender and trade — 15 June 2004.

In August 2004 NAWO contributed to the Alternative report to the 10-year review of the Beijing Platform For Action 2005 and The Outcome of the Twenty-third Special Session of the General Assembly 2000 in respect of the response by the United Kingdom Government. Before collating this response NAWO undertook a consultation with its member organizations and associates. NAWO continues to monitor the United Kingdom Government's progress towards fulfilling its BPfA commitments and campaigns for women's concerns and needs at all levels of policymaking and implementation. It submitted its Alternative report to the United Nations in New York and Geneva.

UNECE Regional Preparatory Meeting for the 10 year Review and Appraisal of the Beijing Platform for Action — 14/15 December 2004 Geneva. Representatives from NAWO attended this and the NGO forum 13/14 December 2004 lobbying and inputting to the 8-page annex to the UNECE document from NGOs.

Commission on the Status of Women: 49th session New York United States of America March 2005. Representatives from NAWO attended, a written statement was submitted on the "Review of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly"; NAWO organized and ran its own side event entitled "Prosperous women connecting and networking women out of poverty".

World Summit on the Information Society, part 2 Tunis, 16-18 November 2005. NAWO was again represented at this UN Conference.

Commission on the Status of Women: 50th, session New York United States of America March 2006. Representatives from NAWO attended, a written statement

was submitted on "Equal participation of women and men in decision-making processes at all levels". The side event NAWO organized and ran was entitled "Media exploitation of girls as a form of violence against girls". This was co-sponsored by other United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland NGOs.

ii) Cooperation with United Nations bodies

In the Autumn of 2006 NAWO began negotiations with the office of the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against women with the objective of hosting a European Regional Consultation; this was accepted and confirmed for 11-13 January 2007. During the same period NAWO consulted widely throughout the membership in preparation for its contribution to the Government response to CEDAW.

iii) Activities in line with the Millennium Goals

NAWO continues through its work to uphold and lobby for the implementation of Millennium Goal 3 that is to promote gender equality and empower women, responding to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland Government's Single Equality Body Consultation Paper in 2003. In August 2004 NAWO responded to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland Government Green paper on anti-discrimination and equal treatment and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland Government's White Paper, Fairness for All: A New Commission for Equality and Human Rights. In November 2004 NAWO submitted its response to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland Government's consultation "Paying the Price — a consultation paper on prostitution". In May and June 2005 NAWO was responsible for and organized four Consultations "Gender in the new Europe — Your Voice" in collaboration with member organizations, and in October 2005 organized and held an open seminar on Trafficking. During 2006 NAWO held two conferences in the regions entitled "Enterprising women make a difference". In May 2006 NAWO submitted its contribution to the consultation by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland Government on proposals for a United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland action plan, "Tackling Human Trafficking".

Such activity is also reported in *UPDATE* — NAWO's quarterly publication — which as well as maintaining contact with its members covers other concerns and matters of interest to the membership. NAWO also maintains contact with its members through regular e-mail bulletins.

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Note by the Secretary-General

Contents

		Page
1.	International Federation of Business and Professional Women	2
2.	International Institute for the Rights of the Child	5
3.	International Kolping Society	8
4.	Pax Christi International	10
5.	Rural Women Environmental Protection Association	14

* Reports submitted by non-governmental organizations are issued without formal editing.

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1. International Federation of Business and Professional Women

(General; 1947)

International Federation of Business and Professional Women (BPW International) was founded in 1930 to bring together women in the paid workforce in business and the professions world-wide to work for equal opportunity in economic, civil and political life. It aims to develop professional and leadership potential for women at all levels. BPW International has over 100 affiliates in 80 countries on all five continents.

I. Participation in the work of the United Nations Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and major United Nations conferences

I.1 United Nations Economic and Social Council: BPW International attended substantive Sessions of the Economic and Social Council in Geneva on 28 July-15 August 2003 and 7-25 August 2006.

I.2 United Nations Office — New York: BPW International has attended the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in New York annually. BPW International, International Council of Women, International Federation of University Women, Soroptimist International and Zonta International (Project 5-O) typically work together. *For CSW 47th Session*, 3-14 March 2003, Project 5-O submitted a statement on Violence Against Women and oral statement on Women and Media/Information and Communication Technology (ICT); co-organized workshops: *Good Practices to Handle High Priority in Violence against Women*, 4 March 2003 and *Equal Access to Knowledge for Women through Information and Communication Technologies and Media*, 6 March 2003. BPW International Vice President was a keynote speaker at NGO Consultation on 1 March 2003 on *Women and ICT*. *For CSW 48th Session*, 1-12 March 2004, Project 5-O submitted statement on Women and Armed Conflicts and oral statement on *the role of men and boys in achieving gender equality* and co-organized *Women Enabling Peace Process: Opportunities and Partnerships to implement United Nations Security Council resolution 1325* workshop, 1 March 2004. BPW International organized *Women for Peace* workshop, 2 March 2004. *For CSW 49th Session*, 28 February-11 March 2005, Project 5-O submitted statement on Implementation Review of Beijing Platform for Action and presented oral statement on strategies for the advancement of women and girls. BPW International organized *Beijing+10 Review: Two Steps Forward and One Step Back* workshop, 1 March 2005. *For CSW 50th Session* on 27 February-10 March 2006, BPW International organized *Return on Investment When More Women Become Executives* workshop, 28 February 2006. During 2003-2006, BPW representatives served as co-chair of NGO Planning Committee for NGO/CSW Consultation Day and other CSW events; member of executive committee of NGO Committee on Status of Women and NGO Committee on United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), and involved in consultation activities during 2 weeks review of the Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

I.3 United Nations Office — Vienna: BPW Representatives were members of NGO Committees on Peace, on Narcotic Drugs, on Development, on UNIFEM, on Human Rights, on Family and on Status of Women; attended meetings monthly; and

helped develop Joint Statements to United Nations meetings. BPW International co-signed joint statements on Women Trafficking and Women and Poverty for CSW 49th Session, March 2005; Joint Statement for the 11th ministerial meeting of United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in Sao Paolo, 13-18 June 2004, and many more.

I.4 United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime: BPW International attended in Vienna: (a) Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, 12th session, 13-22 May 2003, 13th Session, 11-20 May 2004; (b) Commission on Narcotic Drugs 46th session, 16-17 April 2003, 47th Session, 16-25 March 2004; (c) Conference of Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime 1st session, 28 June-July 2004 and 2nd Session, 10-21 October 2005.

I.5 International Labour Organization (ILO): BPW International attended in Geneva (a) ILO Conferences 91st Session, 3-19 June 2003; 92nd Session, 1-17 June 2004; 93rd Session, 31 May-16 June 2005; and 94th Session, 7-23 February 2006; (b) *Meeting of Experts on Violence and Stress at Work*, 8-15 October 2003; (c) *Tripartite Meeting on Future of Work and Quality in the Information Society*, 18-22 October 2004.

I.6 United Nations World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS): BPW members attended WSIS Phase I in Geneva, 9-12 December 2003, and Phase II in Tunis, 16-18 November 2005, and lobbied for gender-sensitive ICT indicators.

I.7 United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD): BPW International attended in Geneva: *Preparatory committee for UNCTAD IX. Hearing with Civil Society and Private Sector*, 22 April 2004; *Trade and Development Board 35th Executive Session*, 21 September 2004 and *53rd session*, 27 September-10 October 2006; *Expert Meeting on Promoting Export Competitiveness of Small and Medium Enterprises*, 9-10 December 2004; *9th Session of Commission on Trade in Goods and Services and Commodities*, 15 March 2005; *Commission on Investment, Technology and Related Financial Issues 10th Session*, 6-10 March 2006.

I.8 World Health Organization (WHO): BPW International submitted 2002-2004 report for WHO in 2004. During 2003-2006, BPW International attended WHO Executive Board meetings in Geneva each January (co-signed statements on Reproductive health and on Health Systems for the 113th session, 19-23 January 2004); *56th-59th World Health General Assembly* each May, *57th Regional WHO meeting in Western Pacific* in Auckland, New Zealand, 18-22 September 2006 (submitted statement on gender discrimination and disadvantages relating to HIV/AIDS).

I.9 United Nations Economic and Social Commission on Asia-Pacific (UNESCAP): BPW International attended in Bangkok *59th Commission Session of the UNESCAP* Meetings in Bangkok, 21-24 April 2003; *UNESCAP Beijing+10 Review*, 7-10 September 2004. BPW International, UNESCAP and Asia-Pacific Women's Information Network Center (APWINC) co-organized in Bangkok: *e-Business and Opportunities for Women in Asia-Pacific* seminar, 28-30 March 2005, and *APEC Forum on Digital Economy for Women 2006: Innovation and Leadership in Asia-Pacific*, 15 December 2006.

I.10 United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE): BPW International attended in Geneva: UNECE 59th Annual session, 24-26 February

2004; 60th Session, 22-25 February 2005; 61st Session, 21-23 February 2006; *Good Governance for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises*, 1-2 April 2004; *Regional Preparatory Meeting for 10 year Review and Appraisal of Beijing Platform for Action*, 14-15 December 2004.

I.11 United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean: BPW International attended in Santiago, Chile: *Commerce, Development and Poverty Conference*, 4 May 2004; *The High-level Panel about Global and Regional Development*, 17 June 2004; *Economic Integration and Social Cohesion lessons learned and perspectives*, 11 November 2004; and *9th Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean* in Mexico City, 10-12 June 2004.

II. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies

II.1 Ten Year Review Beijing Platform for Actions: (Beijing+10) Preparation: A BPW Representative co-authored NGO/CSW Committee in New York's *Ten Years After Beijing: Still More Promises than Progress: 1999-2005 Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action* as input for NGO Consultation on 27 February 2005 and CSW 49th Session in 28 February-11 March 2005. BPW International's own review "*Beijing+10 Review: Two Steps Forward and One Step Back*", was archived at www.bpw-international.org. BPW members attended NGO Beijing+10 Review for Latin America and the Caribbean Forum in Mexico City, 7-8 June 2004, and Asia-Pacific NGO Forum on Beijing+10 Review in Bangkok, 30 June-3 July 2004 and published *Financial Crisis that Breaks the Glass Ceiling: Advancement of Thai Women Executives in the Private Sector* in the Asia-Pacific NGO Forum Beijing+10 Review booklet.

II.2 NGO/Department of Public Information (NGO/DPI): A BPW Representative was a member of Planning Committee for NGO/DPI Annual Conferences in New York in 2003-2006. BPW International co-organized workshops/panels: *Acting on Human Dignity and Security: From Participatory Theatre to Reality on the World Stage*, 56th NGO/DPI conference, 8-10 September 2003; *MDG 1: Poverty, International Migration and Development*, 57th NGO/DPI Conference, 8-10 September 2004; *Reducing Fear of Strangers/Reducing Strangers' Fears: The Challenges of Providing Services to Migrants and Refugees in a Hostile Environment*, 58th NGO/DPI conference, 7-9 September 2005.

II.3 Migration: A BPW representative was a member of Migration task force which helped prepare High-Level Discussion on Migration in New York, 14-15 September 2006. As a member of Subcommittee on Immigrants and Refugees in 2004-2006, she organized *International Migration and Migrants: Critical Issues in Social Development and Human Well-Being* workshop in parallel to Commission for Social Development 42nd Session, 13 February 2004; co-convened Migration Caucus at CSW 50th session, 27 February-10 March 2006; and co-founded NGO Committee on Migration, October 2006.

II.4 United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO): In 2004, BPW International nominated members for UNESCO's Talent Bank of Women with International Societal Expertise and a report *Monuments on Messengers of Culture of Peace for UNESCO*. UNESCO published BPW activities in its Culture of Peace Newsletter, issue 2, on "Gender and Culture of Peace", December 2004.

II.5 Human Rights: BPW International attended the 59th session of the Commission for Human Rights 17 March-25 April 2003 in Geneva, Switzerland; the 60th session of the Commission 15 March-23 April 2004, the 61st session of the Commission 14 March-22 April 2005, and the 62nd session of the Commission 13 March-21 April 2006; 55th session of the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights 28 July-15 August 2003 in Geneva, the 56th session of the Subcommission 26 July-13 August 2004, the 57th session of the subcommission 25 July-12 August 2005, and the 58th session of the subcommission 7-25 August 2006; and the 1st session of the newly installed Human Rights Council 19-30 June 2006 in Geneva, the 2nd session of the Council 18 September-6 October 2006 and 27-29 November 2006, and the 3rd session of the Council 29 November-December 2006.

III. Actions to support Millennium Development Goals

Supports for **Goal 1: Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger** include literacy training for over 3,000 women; skills training for over 4,000 people; and building 30 houses for displaced people. Supports for **Goal 3: Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women** include microcredit for over 6,500 women to start up businesses; career guidance for over 6,000 students; 360 scholarships for nursing students; and helped 540 refugee women to integrate into society. Support for **Goal 8: Develop a Global Partnership for Development** includes educating 299 people on e-Business in partnership with UNESCAP and/or APWINC.

2. International Institute for the Rights of the Child

(Special consultative: 2003)

Part I: Introduction

i. The Institute's activities take as their basis the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and its two Optional Protocols, as well as the main instruments relating to the protection of those rights. The aims and objectives of the Institute have remained the same since 2003, namely:

- To train individuals responsible for ensuring the exercise of the rights of the child or who work with children in the countries concerned;
- To disseminate relevant information on the rights of the child in general and on the various aspects of those rights;
- To instil a rights-of-the-child-based culture and consciousness.

ii. The Institute's activities, in particular its contribution to the work of the United Nations, its participation in United Nations meetings and its cooperation with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) on training-related matters, have been significantly strengthened with the election, on 23 February 2005, of its Director, Mr. Jean Zermatten, to the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

Part II: Contribution to the work of the United Nations

i. Participation in the work and/or conferences of the United Nations

The Institute has taken part in all the days of general discussion organized by the Committee on the Rights of the Child and held in Geneva, Switzerland, on the third Friday in September:

- 15 September 2006: The right of the child to be heard. Participation; and provision of support to a group of students, who submitted an article. Mr. Jean Zermatten, Director of the Institute, was responsible for preparing the final outcome;
- 16 September 2005: Children without parental care. Mr. Jean Zermatten, Director of the Institute, was the Rapporteur of Working Group 2;
- 17 September 2004: Implementing child rights in early childhood. Participation;
- 18 September 2003: The rights of indigenous children. Participation.

ii. Cooperation with the United Nations and its agencies

As part of its training activities, the Institute has been asked to train professionals working with children from the following countries:

(a) 4 to 11 November 2006: At the request of Penal Reform International and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Institute organized a training course in Sion, Switzerland, for an official delegation of professionals working on the reform of the juvenile justice system in Jordan;

(b) 24 to 28 April 2006: At the request of UNICEF Albania, the Institute hosted, in Sion, an Albanian delegation comprising 13 representatives of official bodies and NGOs, as well as the head of UNICEF Albania, who received basic training on juvenile justice, including a visit to institutions for young offenders;

(c) 29 August to 4 September 2004: At the request of UNICEF Mauritania, a Mauritanian delegation comprising 16 officials responsible for juvenile justice attended a week-long training course, held in Sion, on justice for minors, alternatives to imprisonment and working in networks;

(d) 6 to 10 October 2003: At the request of UNICEF Moldova, a 15-person delegation comprising members of the Moldavian Government, senior State officials, magistrates, prosecutors and police officers attended a training course, held in Sion, on juvenile justice and alternatives to imprisonment;

(e) 9 to 14 December 2003: In collaboration with the United Nations Crime Prevention Division, the Institute hosted, at its headquarters in Sion, a Lebanese delegation, the members of which, in the context of the reform of juvenile justice introduced in Lebanon, wished to visit institutions for young female offenders in Switzerland.

iii. Activities connected with the Millennium Development Goals

- Goal 2: Universal primary education. From 18 to 22 October 2005, the Institute held its 11th international Sion seminar on education. Around 100 participants from around the globe came together to seek ways and means

of achieving universal education; the minutes of the seminar were published and distributed;

- Goal 3: Gender equality. In Switzerland, the Institute is working to combat female genital mutilation and organized an awareness-raising day on 18 May 2006. A documentary entitled *Femmes mutilées plus jamais* was produced by the Institute in February 2007. These activities also relate to goal 4: Reduce by two thirds the mortality rate among children under 5 and goal 5: Reduce by three quarters the maternal mortality ratio;

- Goal 6: Reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS and malaria. From 14 to 18 October 2003, the Institute, in conjunction with the François-Xavier Bagnoud Association, held its ninth international Sion seminar on the topic of the fight against HIV/AIDS. Some 60 participants tried to find ways of addressing the issues of HIV/AIDS orphans, awareness-raising and access to drugs that would work in their countries.

Other activities indirectly related to the work of the Council and the United Nations

- 6 November 2003: Creation of the Swiss Network on the Rights of the Child, an association established on the initiative of the Institute that brings together some 50 NGOs in Switzerland;

- Participation by the Institute in the programme of support for the prevention of prostitution and/or trafficking in West Africa and for the social and vocational integration of migrant minors, victims or not of those phenomena, run by the International Social Service (ISS) since December 2002. The Institute has organized a number of training courses for interested professionals and journalists (2006, 2005 and 2003);

- December 2003: Creation of RAFY (Fodé and Yaguine Network for Action), which brings together all the beneficiaries of the Institute's training courses relating to the SSI programme;

- University training: Master of Advanced Studies in Children's Rights (MCR), in collaboration with the University of Fribourg and the Kurt Bösch University Institute in Switzerland, and Diploma in Child Protection and Diploma in Psycho-Legal Assistance for Children and Adolescents, in collaboration with the Universities of Lausanne, Fribourg and Geneva, Switzerland. A seminar, organized in collaboration with the Luxembourg Ministry of the Family and Integration and the Kurt Bösch University Institute, was held in Sion from 17 to 21 July 2006 on the topic "A general culture of child's rights";

- 26 to 27 October 2006: Caracas Seminar (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela). The Institute, through its Director, Mr. Jean Zermatten, gave a presentation on international trends in restorative justice to an audience composed of over 120 judges, around 100 prosecutors, lawyers, social workers specializing in child protection, and academics;

- October 2005: Opening of the Children's Rights Path in Sion, which sets out, for the benefit of a wide audience, 12 rights embodied in the Convention, each illustrated by a different animal;

– In 2000, the Institute launched a website (www.childsrights.org), which disseminates information on the rights of the child in French, English and Spanish and, to a lesser extent, German, Italian and Arabic. On 20 November 2006, the site became available in Chinese.

3. International Kolping Society

(Special consultative: 1991)

Part I. Introduction

The International Kolping Society (IKS) is a Catholic social organization which wants to serve the needs of the members and promote the common good through active participation of its individual members and their groups and to cooperate in the continuous renewal and humanization of society. Fortunately, IKS had a strong growth of new groups and individual members in many parts of the world and has started in new countries especially in Africa, Asia and Central America. Today IKS has more than 550,000 members in more than 60 countries.

Part II. Contribution to the work of the United Nations

i) Vienna NGO Committee on the Family

Since the Year of the Family 1994 IKS has been a member of the Vienna NGO Committee of the family and was designated as International Year of the Family patron. IKS was not only a member in this Vienna NGO Committee but was elected from the beginning also as a board member. In December 2003, the Secretary-General's message of launching the observance of the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2004 was very much welcomed, and IKS has started a special worldwide programme under the headline "People need Family — Children need Parents". All national organizations of IKS have started different activities to support families and family members and to advocate for the interests of the families in the political discussion.

In 2004, the representative of IKS on the board was changed from Mrs. Christine Leopold to Mrs. Monika Hummel. The elected Monika Hummel coordinates the databases of the Committee and takes part in the manifold projects of the Committee e.g. Internet forums, the quarterly bulletin "Families International", finances, or contacts to the Commission for Social Development.

The following seminars or forums were organized by the Committee in Vienna, Austria, and IKS has participated in all of them: "Civil Society Organizations Networking", 6 May 2004 to 7 May 2004; "HIV/Aids and Families", 20 December 2004; "Transnational Grassroots Cooperation for Families", 2 May 2005; "Demographic Challenges for Families", 22 May 2005; "Compatibility of Family and Professional Life — Cohesion or Conflict?", 20 November 2006.

ii) Participation in seminars and meetings by our representative in New York, Mr. John Reitter

2003: As a member of the NGO Committee on the Family, IKS has supported a statement which was submitted to the 41st session of the Commission for Social development from 10 to 21 February 2003. In cooperation with other

non-governmental organizations IKS supported different interventions. As one of the over twenty individual organizations constituting the IYF+10 Committee sharing an interest in promotion of family values and strengthening the international pro-family movement, IKS worked for nine months to organize and present the high-level seminar on the family to members of permanent missions, Secretariat staff and representatives of other NGOs. The event was held on 4 December 2003 and marked the Tenth Anniversary of the International Year of the Family.

2004: IKS attended the Prep Com for the High Level Segment of the Economic and Social Council featuring a round table on mobilizing resources for development and poverty eradication and focusing on the deliverables promised in the Brussels Program of Action, 18 March 2004; A seminar sponsored by the IYF+10 Committee, 13 May 2004; A seminar given by Mr. Alfredo Sfeir Younis, formerly of the World Bank, on the topic "Catholic spirituality and global policy", November 2004; Over the course of the year IKS attended briefings on a variety of topics including "Biodiversity for Food security", "Role of Men and Women in Families", "Elimination of Violence against Women", "Global Action in Aging", the "Ottawa Landmine Convention". In addition to this IKS has written statements in opposition to Cloning, in favour of Debt Reduction, and on the use of Micro-Credit in the alleviation of poverty and the creation of employment.

2005: IKS attended the Civil Society Forum and worked with the Chair of the NGO Commission on Social Development, Joan Burke and her team to create the statement that would become the Civil Society Declaration. The Declaration puts poverty reduction, employment and social integration front and centre. Between 9 February and 18 February 2005 IKS attended various segments of the 43rd Session of the Commission on Social Development, and at the end of February the 49th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women. IKS attended the ECOSOC Special Event on the topic "Food Crisis in Africa" held in the ECOSOC Chamber at United Nations headquarters on 27 October 2005, and the Panel Discussion: "UN Secretary-General Study of Violence Against Children" in November 2005. Over the course of the year IKS participated in a number of other events which were sponsored by the NGO Committee on the Family. Among them were "Children affected by armed conflicts" and "Violence against children".

2006: On 7 February 2006, IKS participated in the Civil Forum convened by the NGO Committee on Social Development, and contributed to the NGO Declaration "Decade of poverty: Ways forward". This document was read to the Commission on the opening of the 44th Session of the Commission on Social Development. In February and March 2006 IKS attended various segments of the 44th Session of the Commission on Social Development, and various segments of the 50th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women. During this time IKS supported several interventions together with other NGOs. During the year 2006 IKS attended a number of briefings, seminars, panel discussions and workshops sponsored by the Department of Public Information, the NGO Committee on the Family, the NGO Committee on Aging. These meetings were a possibility to exchange grass-roots experience regarding the effective utilization of microcredit, of life skills training, of job creation and education and of promoting hope and self-esteem.

iii) Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

Since 1972 IKS has established an organization called SEK under its leadership. This organization supports development projects in Africa, Asia and Latin America, and social projects in the so-called transformation states of Central and Eastern Europe. This organization has collected every year nearly 3 million euros by its members and gets subsidies from the German and the Luxemburg government and the European Commission. Altogether the yearly budget amounts to 7 to 8 million Euros. Since the beginning of the activities of this organization it has started projects to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger. The Millennium Development Goals gave IKS a new incentive to concentrate more of our financial means on this direction. Since 2001 more than 70 per cent of its financial means have been given for projects according to the Millennium Development Goals.

iv) International Year of Microfinance

IKS welcomed very much the decision of the United Nations to declare the year 2005 the International Year of Microfinance. As an organization IKS has experience of more than 150 years with microfinance systems and uses this instrument extensively also in its development cooperation. The organization with the most experience in this direction is Kolping India. Kolping India has organized all of their about 25,000 members in saving groups, and these saving groups are the basis for the whole microfinance systems of Kolping India. Every year nearly 4,000 individuals can start their own small business because of small credits they get out of this system.

IKS took the occasion of the International Year of Microfinance to publish a small booklet on the topic "Microfinance systems in the developing cooperation of IKS". The booklet starts with a preface of Dr. Annette Krauss from the United Nations Capital Development Fund.

This small booklet and seminars in Africa and Latin America encouraged the small existing microfinance systems in Chile, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania and Kenya to grow, and today there is a well-functioning system of microfinance institutions in Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Chile and a beginning of this system in some other Latin American countries and in Kenya and in Benin.

4. Pax Christi International

(Special consultative: 1979)

1. Aims, Purposes and Main Course of Action of Pax Christi International

Pax Christi is committed to non-violence, demilitarization and disarmament, human security, human rights and the rule of law as the basis of peaceful societies. As a movement and a global network, the organization brings together people from many different backgrounds and cultures, to work towards a shared vision of peace, reconciliation and justice for all.

2. Major Organizational Changes

From 2003 to 2006, the membership of Pax Christi International has increased dramatically, from 36 member organization to today's number of 97. Furthermore, the geographic focus of Pax Christi has also shifted, from its core member group of European organization, to organization located primarily in the developing world. Today, approximately 39 per cent of Pax Christi's member organizations are located in Africa, 26 per cent in Europe, 19 per cent in the Asia-Pacific, 10 per cent in the Americas and the Caribbean, and 6 per cent in the Middle East.

3. Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and major conferences and other United Nations meetings

Oral and written statements 2003-2006

- 59th session Commission on Human Rights 18 March-25 April, Geneva, Switzerland

Written submissions at on: Peace and Development in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda; Treatment of Asylum Seekers, Refugees and Immigrants; Religion-Based Violence; Internally Displaced Persons and Civil Peace Initiatives; the Occupied Arab Territories; Conscientious Objection; and Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Oral intervention at the 59th session Commission on Human Rights on Religious Intolerance.

- Fifth Session of the Group of Governmental Experts of the States Parties to the Convention on Conventional Weapons (CCW/GGE) 16-27 June 2003 in Geneva. Intervention on Explosive Remnants of War.

- 55th session of the Subcommission on Promotion and Protection of Human Rights 28 July-15 August, Geneva. Written intervention at the on Israel and Palestine. Oral interventions at the 55th session of the Subcommission on Promotion and Protection of Human Rights on: the Situation in Vieques; the Death Penalty; Children and Iraq; and Religious Discrimination.

- Third Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty Organizations (CTBTO) Conference, 3 to 5 September 2003 in Vienna: Written submission on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

- 60th session of the Commission on Human Rights 15 March-23 April, Geneva Switzerland. Written submissions at the on: Peace and Reconciliation in the Great Lakes; Palestinian Citizens in Israel; Freedom of Expression; Informal Economy and Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; Fight Against Terrorism. Oral interventions at the 60th session of the Commission on Human Rights on: Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; Religious Freedom.

- 56th session of the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights 26 July-13 August, 2004, Geneva. Written submission on Northern Uganda. Oral interventions at the 56th session of the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights on: Abolition of the Death Penalty; The Toxic Legacy of Military Activities of the United States of America in Puerto Rico and the Philippines; Discrimination of Religious Minorities; the Lack of Security and Widespread Violations of Fundamental Freedoms of the People of Iraq.

- 10 year review of the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action and the outcome of the 24th Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly: Commission for Social Development, 9 to 18 February 2005 in New York. Written submission on HIV/AIDS Orphans.
- 61st session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights 14 March-22 April 2005. Written submissions on: Fundamental Freedoms in West Papua; Integration of Women and the Gender Perspective. Oral interventions at the 61st session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights on: Death Penalty; Freedom of Religion and Belief.
- Meeting Ad hoc Group of Experts of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention Geneva, 13 to 24 June 2005. Oral intervention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction.
- 62nd session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, 13-27 March 2006, Geneva, Switzerland. Written submissions on: Operation Murambatsvina in Zimbabwe; Right to Education. Oral and written statement at the final session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, 27 March 2006.
- First Session of the Human Rights Council 19-30 June 2006, Geneva Switzerland.
- 58th session of the Subcommission for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, 7-25 August 2006, Geneva, Switzerland. Written submission on the war in Lebanon, Israel and Gaza.
- CCW Review Conference, 7 to 17 November 2006 in Geneva. Switzerland.

4. Organization of parallel NGO meetings

Pax Christi International continued as an active participant in the NGO Committee on Disarmament Peace and Security, the AIDS Committee, the Indigenous Forum, International Coalition for the Decade of the Culture of Peace and Non-Violence, Conscientious Objection and the Values Caucus. Members of the International Secretariat as well as delegates of the movement in New York attended NGO meetings on the International Criminal Court. Representatives attended sessions of the Special Committee of NGOs on Human Rights at the United Nations in Geneva. During the United Nations Commission for Human Rights, Pax Christi International was present at parallel sessions. On 6 April 2005, the World Council of Churches convened a meeting of ecumenical partners, including Pax Christi International, to address the question of the reform of the United Nations Commission for Human Rights. The representative of Pax Christi International at the United Nations in Vienna is a member of the NGO Committee on Peace. On 2 June 2004, the Committee held a meeting with the President of the fifty-eighth United Nations General Assembly, Mr Julian R. Hunte, Foreign Minister of Saint Lucia. A joint statement was made on that occasion. Pax Christi issued an Open Letter, "Pax Christi International Calls for Ethical Approach to Biological Weapons" as part of its lobbying activities to States party to the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention on the occasion of their meeting from 6 to 10 December 2004 in Geneva. On 8 March 2005, Pax Christi organized a meeting on cluster munitions during the Tenth Session of CCW/GGE, 7-11 March in Geneva, Switzerland.

5. Participation in International Days

During the reporting period the following United Nations commemorative days were observed by Pax Christi: International Women's Day, 8 March; International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Genocide in Rwanda, 27 April; International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, 26 June; International Day of Peace, 21 September; International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, 25 November; International Human Rights Day, 10 December.

6. Activities and Advocacy in Support of Global Principles

In March 2003, Pax Christi International submitted letters of concern to the United Nations Secretary-General, aiming to prevent the war in Iraq. On 28 March 2003, a delegate of Pax Christi met with the United Nations Secretary-General to discuss the war in Iraq. On 1 April 2003, Pax Christi International in cooperation with the NGO Committee on Peace at the United Nations in Vienna, appealed to the United Nations for a Special Session on Iraq. Letters were sent to the Presidents of the Security Council and the General Assembly, as well as to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, to request the immediate convening of an "emergency special session" of the United Nations General Assembly according to the procedures given in General Assembly resolution 377 A (V) section A, paragraph 1.

In response to escalating violence in the Great Lakes region, participants of Pax Christi's Regional Consultation sent a letter on 15 May 2003 to the Secretary-General of the United Nations. In it they urged more decisive United Nations action in Ituri, in the eastern region of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. On 17 July 2003, in a letter addressed to the Secretary General, Pax Christi International called for an extension of these operations to avoid further humanitarian catastrophes and to build towards a lasting peace in the region.

Pax Christi International was represented at the First Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects at the National, Regional and Global Levels, which took place at the United Nations Headquarters, from 7 to 11 July 2003.

Pax Christi International awarded Sergio Vieira de Mello, in his role as United Nations civil servant, the "Pax Christi International Peace Award 2004". The ceremony took place in New Jersey, United States of America, May 2004. A 55-person Pax Christi delegation held a series of meetings with communities centred on the United Nations, including the Office of the United Nations Secretary-General, in May 2004.

On 9 June 2004, Pax Christi International issued a statement: "Protect people in Darfur!" In a related letter, the International Secretariat urged the Secretary-General of the United Nations, to give immediate assistance to protect the people of Darfur. A coalition of 43 NGOs, including Pax Christi International, approached the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Ms. Louise Arbour, about the situation in Darfur. A copy of the letter, 23 May 2006, was also sent to all 47 new members of the Human Rights Council.

5. Rural Women Environmental Protection Association

(Special consultative: 1999)

Part I

Rural Women Environmental Protection Association (RWEPA) is a people-centred organization working towards the promotion of environment friendly farming methods, promotion of the education of marginalized communities especially the Fulani girl child, empowerment of the rural woman through the encouragement of income generating activities, and best health practices.

Africa, as the continent with the oldest human habitation and tremendous diversity of both cultures and biological diversity, is naturally rich in traditional knowledge practices and innovations. African knowledge systems are linked to a spectrum of economic and cultural systems, ranging from hunting and gathering, to pastoralist, to traditional agriculture, to commercial agriculture and service economies in urban areas.

There is the traditional argument that health will automatically improve as a result of economic growth. Rather, the opposite seems to be true. Improved health is critical to economic development in poor countries. Partnerships struck between the rich and poor countries could offer the "gift of life itself to millions of the worlds" needy and prove to all doubters that globalization can indeed work to the benefit of humankind.

Apart from networking with national and international NGOs, RWEPA has extended its partnership arrangements with an American based NGO, Play Soccer Cameroon, which has the same line of action towards youths and underprivileged children from ages 5-15.

Part II

i) – Representative attended the NGO/Civil Society Forum Prep to World Summit on the Information Society(WSIS) in Tunis, Tunisia, from 16-18 November 2005.

– The General Coordinator of RWEPA attended a training session organized by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) in December 2004 in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania.

– The General Coordinator participated in the conference on Multilateral Agreements and Compliance international conference organized by UNEP and the Ministry of Environment of Cameroon in Yaoundé in March 2006. RWEPA was the secretary of the caucus group.

– The Secretary General of RWEPA attended a regional conference on the Protection of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, organized by ILO Sub-Regional Office for Central Africa and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva, in Cameroon in April 2005 at the ILO head office in Yaoundé. The RWEPA representative was the facilitator of this workshop.

– The General Coordinator of RWEPA participated in the Central African subregional zone workshop to train the indigenous peoples (Pygmies and the Bororos) on their rights to their cultural heritage and beliefs, organized by both

ILO Geneva and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva, in Hotel Azur, Cameroon in November 2004.

ii) – RWEPA lacked the necessary funding support to enable its representatives take active part at the international meetings, and sometimes too we had difficulties obtaining the necessary entry visas especially in the case of access to the United Nations meetings in New York. Difficult access to information was another serious impediment to our timely application to participate in meetings and conferences.

Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals:

– Africa in general, and Cameroon in particular, there have been changes which are creating new opportunities for partnerships between the State and its citizens to protect and promote traditional knowledge and its application to the monitoring and protection of biological diversity. The General Coordinator of RWEPA participated fully in the elaboration of Law No. 2003/006 of 21 April 2003 laying down safety regulations governing modern biotechnology in Cameroon. In this light,

– RWEPA organized two seminars in 2004 and 2005, for 23 traditional rulers of the Moghamo Area in Momo Division, and 75 Ardos in Sabga. The objective was to sensitize them on the rules and regulations governing biotechnology in Cameroon, since they are like the custodians of the native laws and customs of the people. These seminar participants have been sensitizing their subjects to practice safe farming methods, thereby protecting the environment and biological diversity.

– RWEPA has been working in partnership with an American based Not for Profit Organization — Play Soccer Cameroon — to promote Literary, numeric and health skills within children of underprivileged communities of two provinces, i.e., the North-west and Central Provinces of Cameroon. This is a project that started in March 2006 and is continuing till date with about 1270 children of ages 5-15 years.

RWEPA is working towards the realization of the following goals that fall within the framework of realizing the Millennium Development Goals:

– Promotion of environment friendly farming methods, thereby reducing poverty and promoting sustainable development by **the Ndop Rice Farmers Association (NRFA)** A subgroup of RWEPA) that has a membership of 70 very conscientious farmers living within the Ndop Plain of Ngoketungia Division of the North-west Province of Cameroon.

They supply the rice to UNVDA at the cost of 12,500 francs a bag and UNVDA sells to the public at 13,500 francs per bag. The harvest is always increasing since the group joined RWEPA Network and is always having enough funding to buy fertilizer for their rice fields. They used it and came out with a harvest of 1000 bags of rice in 2006. This gave them a total annual income of 12,500,000 francs. They have paid back the loan they took and share equally among the 70 members of the group 1/2 of the yearly income, and the rest to RWEPA for the smooth running of the organization.

These farmers use the money from the group to mostly educate their children and clothe themselves. They also use some to pay for medical services provided to the cattle by veterinary nurses to fight against diseases. There is usually the left over

from the harvest that is used by the farmers for home consumption. This brings about socio-economic development to the people of this area.

- Promotion of the education of children from marginalized communities especially the Fulani girl child, children with special educational needs, e.g., children who are emotionally depressed, those that are abandoned etc. This is realized through training of parents on the various methods of identifying these children and teachers handling these children the different techniques of managing them in the class.

- Empowerment of the rural woman through the encouragement of income-generating activities, and best health practices e.g., The Widikum Ambele Women Oil Farmers Association (WAWOFA) Project in Widikum village — WAWOFA — subgroup of RWEPA.

In 1999, this plantation produced five hundred tins (500) of good palm oil. In the year 2006, 3000 tins of palm oil were produced and sold at ten thousand five hundred francs (10,000 frs) per tin. This gave them thirty million francs (30,000,000 frs) from sales of palm oil. The other by-products such as, shells, kernels and chaffs are sold to people who own soap industries. The demand is very high. This year WAWOFA sold palm kernels and the shells for five million francs (5,000,000 frs).

The total income from the harvest in a year is shared into three parts:

- 1/3 is banked in RWEPA's account for the running of the subgroup and RWEPA at the national and international levels i.e., participation at training sessions and once in a while international conferences when it becomes absolutely necessary.

- 1/3 is kept aside for the cost of running the plantation (those men and young boys that harvest the nuts and once a year clear the plantation are paid for).

- 1/3 is shared among the fifty (50) members. Most of them use the money to send their children to school and sometimes buy zinc (roofing sheets) to roof their houses instead of living under thatched roofs that leak seriously whenever it rains.

In fact, the example of WAWOFA subgroup of RWEPA is worth emulating, if most of the civil society can be able to come together as a group and work towards a common goal. Most of the group's meeting forums are used as sensitization forums against the spread of HIV/AIDS/STDs. They are given lectures on how they can practise safe sex, and reduce the rate of infection by the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

- RWEPA organized a training on leadership skills for 60 women from 20 subgroups of RWEPA from all over Cameroon in April, 2005. These were subgroup presidents, secretary generals, and treasurers of their groups.

- In the domain of improvement of grass-root women and capacity-building (women and desertification action plan for Africa), the general coordinator and the secretary general of RWEPA have had working sessions with all the 20 subgroups of RWEPA sensitizing the women on the negative impacts of desertification on the environment and there is already a change in behaviour and mentalities of the rural communities of Cameroon.

- RWEPA youth groups organize every summer cultural weeks during which sensitization on issues relating to children's rights and dignity are carried out.

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Contents

		Page
1.	Academy for Future Science	2
2.	All India Women's Education Fund Association	4
3.	International Association for Religious Freedom	8
4.	International Social Service	10
5.	United States Committee for UNIFEM	14

* Reports submitted by non-governmental organizations are issued without formal editing.

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1. Academy for Future Science

(Special; 2003)

While the broad aims and work of The Academy For Future Science continues according to its 2002 submission, some of the highlights of our work has expanded where the Academy has helped initiate an exchange with other NGOs working in community building in Maseru, Lesotho. Our work continues to include an outreach program in Brazil, where we have supported an educational program for the Xavante Indians of Mato Grosso, Brazil (2003-2006). We have also provided them with sewing machines and technology for rice production as well as computer training in an effort to help with primary education and eradicate poverty according to the Millennium Development Goals. Throughout 2003-2006, The Academy's global outreach has also focused on educational forums in various countries of the world such as Mexico, Chile, Brazil where we have worked to help instruct teachers and educators in new information sciences that are available in support of the Information Society according to the UN Economic and Social Council's commitment to capacity building through information resources.

The Academy For Future Science has sent representatives to all the Committee for Sustainable Development (CDS) sessions in New York since 2001. Since the Academy had participated in the WSSD in Johannesburg in 2002, as well as presented a paper on medical advances on UN TV (August 2002), it continued its participation at CSD-11 (2003) where we supported the European Union's proposal of a ten-year program of work on sustainable production and consumption, focusing on consumer pricing, science and technology, and greater access to information. At CSD-12 (2004) we undertook to evaluate the progress of implementation of Agenda 21. Here we were particularly interested in the partnership relationships within the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership (REEEP) and how to achieve the Millennial Development Goals on Water and Sanitation organized by the UN-HABITAT. Our work at CSD-13 (2005) focused on practical measures and options to expedite implementation of commitments in water sanitation and water settlements contained in Agenda 21. We also supported Chair John Ashe who spoke about incorporating the MDGs as a key part of the work of the CSD. In CSD-14 (2006) we discussed the lack of funding that seemed to be present in many of the sustainable development projects, and looked also to incorporate information from the International Conference for Financing and Development, connecting also with various partnerships in our area of expertise, while returning to work with the REEEP (Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership) and having some discussions with the Global Village Energy Partnership (GVEP). The Academy reviewed some of the new science technologies available in partnerships, especially in applications of technology in India and Canada. At all of the CSD conferences listed above, we participated in NGO forums and working groups, as well as the larger committee meetings held by UN leaders.

In addition, The Academy For Future Science sent two delegates to the UN World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), Geneva, 8-12 December 2003 (including consultation meetings). We participated with other groups in the Southern Working Group that included members from Cameroon, South Africa, India and Fiji. The working group recognized the need for training in high technology especially for African and certain Asian NGOs in order to play a greater role in the global information revolution and looked at ways of raising finances for this purpose. It was determined that

improvements were needed in the NGOs abilities to achieved a more practical field collaboration and technical networking, in part, because of the limited communications amongst NGOs. It was decided NGOs needed to disseminate and share their experiences to a greater degree. It was also noted in dialogue with Asian NGOs, that civil society in Asia is relatively newer than that of Africa. Both regions delegates felt there has to be more capacity building, and that it was important to work together for these purposes.

At the WSIS, we also encouraged ways to strengthen civil society that would define a better North-South relationship by providing southern hemispheric countries with more information and democratic insights and to highlight leadership roles and models as used in India and South Africa. There were discussions with UNEP leaders, and how ICT (Information and Communication Technologies) could benefit African countries. One of the ideas discussed was the establishment of a special fund for the development of IT development in countries of the South (e.g., Digital Solitary Fund). The conclusion of our working group and many leaders speaking at the Conference was that a greater degree of cooperation among NGOs, educational institutes, government leaders and programs, both in the North and South, were paramount if technological advances were going to be of benefit. Our working group provided the UN leadership with several recommendations. Among them was the recommendation to involve more Southern NGOs and to find financial solutions to ensure their participation. We felt it was important to encourage national governments to be more sensitive to civil society organizations' involvement in the policy-making process. Therefore, we applauded the UN for bringing together such individuals to allow a greater communications process to begin.

Two of our representatives also attended a follow-up of the WSIS which took place in New York (February 2004) in conjunction with the International Council for Caring Communities. Here we heard and had the chance to meet with H.F. Mr. Bob Jalango who is Chairman of the ECOSOC Working Group on Informatics Permanent Representative of Kenya to the UN who gave an outstanding presentation on the need for the building of the Information Society throughout Africa.

The Academy was represented at the Third Session of the World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology which took place in Rio (1-4 December 2003). The main discussion here centered on ethics and had six basic focuses. The panel we participated in was the Panel on the Ethics of Fresh Water. There was much discussion on the use of fresh water in desert and arid places, especially in Africa where there is creeping desert conditions in the North and problems of water pollution and waste due to the lack of proper water and health infrastructure in many of the larger sub-Sahara African cities. It was discussed that a better understanding of human rights, new hands-on technology, and a dialogue on ethics would benefit Central African nations helping their respective societies gaining access to clean water.

The Academy was represented by a judge who is also a professor teaching Space Law from Brazil, who attended the UN/Brazil workshop on Space Law "Disseminating and developing international and national space law: the Latin American and Caribbean Perspective" in Rio de Janeiro (22-25 November 2004). The workshop observed that enacting national space legislation was one of many mechanisms to authorize and continue to supervise space activities of non-governmental entities. Our representative took the information back to his university to report on these findings and continues to incorporate this knowledge in various ways.

We have also attended some of the United Nations Forest Forums (UNFF), mainly the larger committee meetings hosted by UN leaders. For UNFF-6 (2006), we applauded Jacques Andoh Alle, Minister of the Environment, Water and Forest, Côte d'Ivoire, who made a presentation on his national efforts to strengthen his country's forests and increase partnerships with NGOs. UNFF-5 (2005) looked at ways to increase forest areas and reduce poverty in areas of forest communities. Parts of South Africa and Lesotho both have areas of forests communities with limited electricity and clean water and we found the information most helpful for our work.

Amongst the other meetings in New York that our representatives attended were: the UN Habitat Meeting: "Urban Governance Tools to Support Sustainable Urbanization" (21 April 2004); UN Habitat Meeting: Unheard Voices of Woman at CSD12" (26 April 2004); Post-summit Meetings with South African Government (ANC on the Role of Alternatives to Nuclear Energy (Dec. 2003); and The Forty-ninth Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW, UN NYC, 28 Feb. to 11 March 2005).

The Academy For Future Science is currently a member of CONGO and works with the Committee for Spiritual Values and Global Concerns (CSVGC) which meets regularly in New York. The Academy helped sponsor in conjunction with the CSVGS the Spirit of the United Nations: Markings for the Future (On the Occasion of the 60th Anniversary of the UN (6 November 2005). The Academy For Future Science also provided a speaker to discuss important issues on "Water and the Value of Bio-ethics" at the Earth Values Caucus (May 2004). In Austria, we had a representative attend The Austria/European Space Agency (ESA), "Symposium on Water for the World; Space Security for Water Management", (Graz, Austria, 13-16 September 2004).

The Academy also sent two participants to the Rwandan Remembrance Trusteeship at the United Nations in April 2005, New York, where testimonies were heard on the need for cooperation amongst African cultures in terms of purpose/mission, current reality, and reconciliation. In all, we feel the UN-ECOSOC programs have enhanced our work of educational outreach and our abilities to help improve on several of the MDGs.

2. All India Women's Education Fund Association

(Special; 1999)

In 1929 the All India Women's Education Fund Association (AIWEFA) was set up to advance the education of women since formal education was recognized as the catalytic agent for social change.

In 1932 with the establishment of the country's first Home Science College, Lady Irwin College, AIWEFA sought to remodel women's education by investing it with a scientific temper. Through the College, AIWEFA sought to guide and implement national policy decisions on around villages of Delhi, through education, health and sanitation.

Since 1995 in an effort towards mainstreaming women in the developmental process AIWEFA included focus on gender issues and urgent social action through field projects, seminars and workshops.

In 1999 AIWEFA was granted ECOSOC status (a Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations). In 2003 AIWEFA accepted the nodal NGO status in the United Nations Informal Regional Network of NGOs (UN NGO IRENE).

AIWEFA continues its field projects that emphasize literacy development, including providing extra support for children with less aptitude for education; imparting skills in computers, tailoring, midwifery, arts and crafts, beauty treatment; capacity building through vocational training and entrepreneurship workshops, imparting best practices in health and nutrition; developing and popularizing the use of microcredit facilities among Self Help Groups; planting model nurseries for improved and sustainable agricultural practices; and identification and encouragement of local talent in sports and other areas.

AIWEFA is networking with NGOs for joint action; participating in working relationships with the Government sector; invoking corporate and bi-lateral agency support towards projects and to discharge corporate social responsibility initiatives for sustainable development.

In 2004-05 AIWEFA celebrated its Platinum Jubilee and dedicated its year-long special programmes towards this event.

Report of AIWEFA activities 2003-2006 specifically as regards AIWEFA support to the work of the United Nations.

2003 - 06

International Networking:

2003

- AIWEFA representation at the High Level Segment Meeting in Geneva where a presentation on AIWEFA's activities was screened.
- As Charter Founder Member of India Alliance for Child rights (IACR) presented the NGO response on the Government of India Child Rights Report to the Child Rights Committee at Geneva.
- AIWEFA was designated Regional Coordinator for the UN NGO IRENE for India by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations.
- Representation at Geneva for "International Day of Disabled Persons"; CONGO General Assembly on "Inclusive Global Governance: Challenge and Opportunities for CONGO in partnership with the U.N."; and World Summit on Information Society (WSIS).
- Presentations: Pretoria, South Africa—Food grain situation in India and Medicinal Herbs.

Colombo, Sri Lanka—Medicinal Herbs.

Manila, Philippines--Appropriate Technologies for water.

2004

- Membership for CONGO.
- International Women's Day Address at Laos organized by the U.N. System.

- Presentation of the case of the Indian Women at the 49th. Session of the Commission on the Status of Women.
- Representation at Islamabad, Pakistan at the conference on Gender Mainstreaming and MDGs.
- Representation at Lalitpur, Nepal, at the Beyond Beijing Consultation on the Girl Child. Concluding Remarks from India presented.
- AIWEFA Geneva Representative acknowledged by Ms. Conchita Poncini, President, Geneva NGO Commission on the Status of Women for effectively coordinating the organization of the Forum.

2005

AIWEFA appointment as one of four Rapporteurs for the NGO IRENE meeting at Tunisia.

2006

- Presentation at Beijing at Round Table and Launch of NGO IRENE/Asia-Pacific Conference on "Creating an environment at National and International levels conducive to generating full and productive employment for all and its impact on sustainable development".

2003-06

National Networking:

2003

- Visit of Senior Interregional Advisor in governance, public administration training, Department of Economic and Social Affairs and Project Coordinator UN-NGO-IRENE to provide assistance to NGOs, strengthen their contribution to the work of ECOSOC in implementing the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), in India. Field visit to AIWEFA's rural project site—Daboda, Haryana and meet with NGOs organized jointly by UNIFEM and AIWEFA.
- AIWEFA instituted the Nina Sibal Award for an NGO working on disability and Stree Shakti for individuals working on Women's Economic Empowerment through Education.
- Hosting of a 3 day seminar 'Building Partnerships towards achieving MDGs.
- Six regional meetings coordinated with the help of networking partners at Amritsar, Bhuvaneshwar, Guwahati, Kolkata, Trivandrum and Coimbatore on "Challenge to Development -Survival of Girl Child", "Child Marriage in Kerala" and SHGs.
- Bhopal workshop on "Women Empowerment and promotion of SHG".
- To mark SAARC Day of the Girl Child hosted a Round Table Panel Discussion "The childhood of the Girl Child : Doorway to Development or Deprivation".
- Representation at the South Asia Regional Conference on "Education: The right of every Girl and Boy".

Field work:

- Adoption of three villages in Haryana state towards holistic development. Computer literacy , Tailoring and Embroidery training introduced.
- Computer Training amongst primary level Government school children.

2004

- Release of updated second edition NGO directory "On Common Ground" in Hindi and English.
- Presentation to the Parliamentary Standing Committee of the Ministry of Human Resource and Development on "Self Help Groups and Micro Credit".

Field Work:

- Ongoing developmental input in villages. Activities include formation of SHGs, youth clubs, medical camps, eye camps, nutrition workshops, orientation towards water conservation, sanitation and training programmes for literacy, legal awareness and nutrition.
- Computer literacy program in Laxmi Nagar, New Delhi.
- Computer training in Government schools.

2005

- Shadow Round Table Meet to coincide with the 48th session of the United Nations NGO Commission on the Status of Women to commemorate Women's Day.
- UNICEF sponsorship to receive training in child related rural and urban mapping.
- AIWEFA's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations—two day national seminar/workshop on MDGs and Exhibition on use of science and technology towards "Drudgery Reduction in Housework".
- Representation at the launch of the U.N. Millennium Project Report by Professor Jeffrey D. Sachs.

Field Work:

- Training in Computer literacy, Tailoring and Embroidery, Tree Plantation in villages.
- Computer, Beauty culture and Self Defense Training, Nutrition workshops at New Delhi.

2006

- Presentation to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Child Marriage Bill.
- SAARC Day of Girl Child for the "Dignity of Daughters ending Child Marriages in India" organized by networking partner India alliance for Child Rights.
- Lobbying for action against "Domestic Violence".
- Education Media: "Strategic Role in Early Childhood Development".

- Participation in the "Think Tank" meeting for the preparation of the 11th Five year plan of the Planning Commission.

Field Work

- Embroidery and Tailoring classes in Pataudi, Daboda and Tirpari.
- Computer Course, Nutrition Training, Civil Defence Training, Beautician Course in Delhi.
- Model Nursery Plantation and economic empowerment in rural areas through a project supported by FAO.

3. International Association for Religious Freedom

(General; 1995)

PART I. Introduction

i. Aims and purpose of the Organization

An association of 'liberal religionists' now over a century old, the IARF through the period 1998-2002 has pursued programmes in accordance with its 2001-2007 Strategic Plan, which - based on Article 18 of the UN's Universal Declaration of Human Rights - committed the organization to work with groups from different religious traditions or beliefs (normally those which share its liberal values) toward freedom from oppressive discrimination by state or social institutions on the grounds of religion or belief, on behalf of communities suffering from religious persecution or discrimination, toward a goal of mutual understanding, respect and the promotion of harmony - or at least tolerance - between communities or individuals of different religions or beliefs. Programmes were therefore undertaken in the areas of:- human rights education in countries afflicted by religion-based intolerance; young adult leadership development; policy materials development for intra-(religious) group accountability.

At the end of 2006, IARF had 12 national chapters (increased since 1998-2002 report) and 66 active member groups (decreased), and an estimated 1,500 individual members across 12 countries (stable). Activities were co-ordinated from four major regional offices - South Asia, Japan, Europe (Budapest) and the Philippines - managed by a secretariat in Oxford, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Funding continues to come from member groups, with in addition a large three-year project grant from the Netherlands government, and sundry moneys for completion of a Rockefeller Foundation-funded project begun in the previous report period (1998-2002).

ii. Changes that impacted our scope / orientation / programmes

Nil

PART II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

i. Participation in the work of the Economic and Social council / subsidiaries / major conferences / other UN activities

IARF focus has remained on the issue of freedom of religion or belief and human rights education. IARF was represented at the 59th and 60th sessions of the Commission on Human Rights in 2003 and 2004, and on both occasions, in its capacity as Secretary of the NGO Committee on Freedom of Religion or Belief, organized Hearings with the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief, Prof Abdelfattah Amor; these hearings were well attended and minuted by IARF for wide circulation. IARF was also represented at the last 61st Session of the Commission on Human Rights, and once again arranged a Hearing with the Special Rapporteur, now Ms Asma Jahangir. At all three sessions IARF drafted, facilitated and presented joint oral statements together with a dozen other NGOs. For the new Human Rights Council in 2006 IARF prepared and attracted 20 further signatories for a written statement which emphasized the importance of the role of the Special Rapporteur.

The organization's quadrennial World Congress was held in Taiwan Province of China, attracting over 300 delegates embracing 12 different belief affiliations. The organization also sent delegates to the Parliament of the World's Religions 2004 in Barcelona, Spain, where they mounted an exhibition on global religious freedom situations, and gave two presentations.

ii. Cooperation with UN bodies or specialised agencies, in the field or at headquarters

The representative of IARF prepared in 2003 an unofficial 30-page translation and executive summary of the 80-page study by the Special Rapporteur on the Status of Women in the light of Religion and Culture; in the absence of an official translation the unofficial translation and summary are still being referred to (as recently as the 4th Session of the Human Rights Council in March 2007). The representative of IARF was invited to numerous consultations with NGOs in the process of designing and launching the new Human Rights Council. IARF also provided materials in the form of videos and texts to the resource centre in the Palais Wilson, Geneva, of the newly established Programme for Human Rights Education. IARF was among other NGOs which provided materials and made comments (a) in the preparation and realization of the World Summit on the Information Society; and (b) at the presentation to NGOs in Geneva in 2006 of the High Level Group on the Alliance of Civilizations; on both occasions IARF emphasized the need for all religions to be involved in civil society engagement.

iii. Initiatives in support of the Millennium Development Goals

The organization has contributed indirectly to the MDGs; while its aims are broadly in agreement with socio-economic developmentalism, since 2001 they have been primarily and specifically to educate in respect of the UDHR's Article 18, and thereby to change mindsets that stand in the way of the broader societal stability and harmony that is a precondition of the MDGs.

2. Universal Primary Education: IARF during 2003 to 2005 followed up the recommendations of the UN "International Consultative Conference on School Education in Relation with Freedom of Religion or Belief, Tolerance and Non-Discrimination" (held in Madrid in 2001) with consultations in South Africa (January 2004) and Costa Rica (November 2004) (having already held similar meetings in Switzerland and India in 2002).

3. Gender Equality: Reference has already been made to IARF focus on the status of women in the light of religion and culture; the study materials provided by IARF have been widely used at many levels and on many continents.

8. Global Partnership for Development: IARF has been elected since 2003 to the Board of the Conference of NGOs in Consultative Status with ECOSOC (CONGO) and has taken part in regular Board Meetings in New York, Geneva and Vienna where the emphasis is put on multi-disciplinary and practical co-operation by NGOs among themselves and with all UN agencies, not least in promoting relevant MDGs.

iv. Activities in support of Global Principles

The IARF's major project has been in collaboration with the New York-based NGO People's Decade for Human Rights Education (PDHRE), and funded by the Dutch government's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (€220,000 over 3 years), to develop and propagate in several countries a package of training materials on human rights related to religious freedom. The two organizations jointly identified a lack of appropriate, culturally sensitive, and easy-to-use 'teaching tools' for unrolling to grassroots communities an awareness of the existence and purpose of the U.N.'s benchmark 1981 document, 'Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief.' The goal was to create modern, experience-based audiovisual and written materials which effectively communicate to foster discussion around religious freedom as deriving from the human rights framework. IARF has distributed these training materials (four video dramas and a manual, with questionnaires, etc.) through programmes run by its chapter and member organization networks within selected communities in Bangladesh, India and the Philippines, and also through its Young Adult leadership.

Young Adult leadership development has continued, with secretariat-organized trainings and regional office-organized seminars in the Philippines in 2003, and the Philippines, India, Hungary, and Japan & the United States of America in 2004. Until end-2003 the organization produced a conspectus of the global situation for religious freedom, in the form of short reports on affected regions, posted quarterly on our website.

The final document of a Rockefeller Foundation-funded project (renamed 'An Affirmation of Religious Freedom & Responsibility') was printed and distributed through our networks, toward the development of an ethical consensus, eventually a code, to which religious groupings will subscribe regarding the treatment of their own members. It is envisaged this work will contribute toward the goals of the UN's 1981 'Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief.'

4. International Social Service

(Special; 1947)

I. INTRODUCTION

i. Aims and purposes

Founded in 1924, International Social Service (ISS) is an international non-governmental organization dedicated to helping individuals and families with personal or social problems resulting from migration and international movement. Its nineteen national Branches and Affiliated Bureaus and

Correspondents in over 140 countries facilitate communication between social services to resolve these problems. ISS provides help without political, racial, religious or national discrimination.

ii. Changes during the period under review

From 2003 to 2006, one Branch and one Affiliated Bureau left the organization : Argentina and Finland. Two new Branches were created: Belgium and the Philippines.

Additional sources of funding were obtained through international projects related to the protection of children without parental care, in particular from UNICEF.

II. CONTRIBUTION OF THE ORGANIZATION TO THE WORK OF THE UNITED NATIONS

i. Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or major conferences and other United Nations meetings

ECOSOC

- Meetings of the Economic and Social Council in 2003 and 2005
- Regular annual sessions 2003-2006 of
- Commission on Social Development
- Commission on the Status of Women
- Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations
- Department of Public Information Annual NGO Conference
- 10 Year Review of the implementation of the Copenhagen Conference and Programme of Action and the outcome of the 24th Special Session of the General Assembly – February 2005
- Beijing + 10 Conference, 49th session of the Commission on the Status of Women – February 2005
- High level Meetings on AIDS, June 2005 and June 2006
- Informal Hearings of the General Assembly with Non-Governmental Organizations, Civil Society and the Private Sector, June 2005
- Informal Hearings of the General Assembly with Non-Governmental Organizations, Civil Society and the Private Sector on International Migration and Development in June 2006
- High level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, September 2006

From 2002 to 2006, Mrs. Rosalind Harris, ISS Representative to the United Nations, chaired the NGO Alliance on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. This Committee took an active role in preparing NGO ancillary meetings of the 11th United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice held in Bangkok in April 2005. These included sessions on trafficking in women and children.

UNHCR

- UNHCR EXCOM, September 2003.

- Briefing session for NGOs on the assistance provided by UNHCR to the countries affected by the 26 December 2004 tsunami, 10 February 2005.

- UNHCR Roundtable on Separated Children, Toronto, November 7, 2005. Ms. Aggie Casselman, Director of ISS Canada presented a paper on "Return Considerations: Best Practices".

UNICEF

- Round Table on "Challenges of the Child Protection System Reforms in the CEE/CIS", Geneva, 26-27 October 2005.

- UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Consultation on Violence against Children, Bangkok, Thailand, 14-16 June 2005. Dr. Marie Connolly, Chief Social Worker of New Zealand Child, Youth and Family Service and Director of ISS Affiliated Bureau in New Zealand attended the meeting.

- Workshop on Social Work and Child Protection, organized in Yangon, Myanmar, by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and UNICEF Myanmar, 8-10 November 2005. A paper was presented by Vincent Faber, Secretary-General.

Human Rights Commission

- The International Reference Centre for the Rights of Children Deprived of their Family (ISS/IRC), operated by ISS, participated regularly in the sessions of the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

- Mr. Sylvain Vité, Deputy Coordinator of ISS/IRC, participated as speaker in the Human Rights Commission (session on NGO activities) in April 2005. On this occasion UNICEF/ISS's call for the adoption of UN Guidelines on the Protection of Children without Parental Care was presented during the plenary session of the Commission.

UNESCO

ISS South Africa participated in an UNESCO Workshop on trans-border Trafficking in Africa, Pretoria, 22 November 2005.

ii. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

Meetings, seminars organized with UN participation

- ISS training seminar on unaccompanied and separated minors, Athens, 25-26 May 2003, with UNHCR participation.

- ISS Italy participated in the "World Refugee Day" organized by UNHCR and the municipality of Rome in 2004 and 2006.

- ISS Portugal participated in the VI International Congress organized by the Portuguese Refugees Council, with the cooperation of UNHCR, on "The Enlargement of the European Union and Protection for the Refugees", Lisbon, 24-25 November 2004.

- In 2005 ISS Switzerland organized a national hearing on children's rights in Switzerland where 10 priorities for the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child were presented.

- In 2005 ISS Australia developed a training module on United Nations and Hague Conventions with implications for working with children. This training is being offered to Government Departments and child welfare service providers.

- ISS Japan has been commissioned by UNHCR to provide assistance to asylum seekers and recognized refugees. A report is submitted to UNHCR twice a year.

- The ISS Affiliated Bureau in South Africa represented the Department of Social Development in an ILO funded project involving the development and implementation of a Child Labour Action Plan for South Africa. The involvement of the ISS unit has been ongoing since 2004.

- In 2003-2004, a program on the provision of homes for elderly people and refugees in Serbia was implemented by ISS Switzerland in cooperation with UNHCR and the Swiss federal government.

- In 2003-2004 a foster placement and training program for children born out of wedlock in Tunisia was conducted by ISS Switzerland in cooperation with UNICEF and INEP.

- The United States of America Branch has a leading role in the United States Campaign to Ratify the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Campaign membership is supported by ISS USA through a dedicated website www.childrightscampaign.org. ISS USA has chaired the planning committee for the national Summit for the Convention on the Rights of the Child: Mobilizing Communities for Ratification, held on 18-20 May 2006 in Washington, D.C.

5. United States Committee for UNIFEM

(Special; 1999)

PART I

Chartered in 1983, the United States Committee for UNIFEM (UNIFEM/USA), one of 16 National Committees worldwide, is committed to generating public awareness and expanding financial support within the United States of America for UNIFEM (United Nations Fund for Women). While the organization's aims and purposes remain as described in the submission of 1997, significant changes occurred due to total new leadership of UNIFEM/USA in June 1999. A gradual and difficult process of restructuring began in order to modernize and professionalize the management of the organization. In 2001, we succeeded in adopting the revised Bylaws which now govern the business of the organization. In January 2002, we created a document on Policies and Procedures. By 2003, the National Board of Directors was reduced to 24 members as planned, and we had an Action Plan. Our work is accomplished through the National Board of Directors helped by local Chapters and an Advisory Council of national leaders. With modern technology and the help of a talented graphic designer and printing company, our publications are now in keeping with other professional organizations, strengthening our outreach considerably. Membership has increased gradually, and strong Chapters are now in California, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, New York, and Washington, D.C. with additional members in Connecticut where a new Chapter is forming. Our mailing list includes over 3000 people in the United States who receive quarterly newsletters and periodic email updates about UNIFEM and the United Nations in general. In addition, we now have a professional website

which was thoroughly modernized in 2006. Our funding comes from membership dues and the percentage which we are permitted to keep from funds raised for UNIFEM through public events and private contributions from United States citizens. This is in accordance with a Recognition Agreement with UNIFEM. According to the agreement between UNIFEM and all National Committees, finalized in September 2002, we are required to raise a minimum of $50,000 each year for UNIFEM. In addition, we must provide the Executive Director of UNIFEM with an annual report concerning our proposed budget, a copy of our annual audit, our activities and a list of Officers and Board Members for the coming year. Another significant change is that we have stronger affiliations with the 15 other National Committees and have formed a Global Coalition in order to streamline our efforts to better engage with our own Governments and Civil Society, to raise more funds for the Trust Fund to Eliminate Violence Against Women and to study how to strengthen our coalition to improve our work together. It was the President of UNIFEM/USA who initiated this endeavor. In addition, we have created or sustained alliances with organizations in the United States which augment and increase our effectiveness, such as the National Council of Women's Organizations, the United Nations Association Council of Organizations, Women Impacting Public Policy and other NGOs with consultative status.

PART II

UNIFEM/USA continues to support UNIFEM projects that promote women's economic empowerment, leadership and the elimination of violence against women and girls; informs elected officials about women's issues and engages their support for UNIFEM programs; promotes events and campaigns that educate the public about human rights issues affecting all women; raises funds for UNIFEM through public events and private contributions; and alerts members about issues of critical concern for the advancement of women and possibilities for action (e.g., a detailed fact sheet concerning the Millennium Development Goals presented at a special event in Washington, D.C. and then sent to all of our mailing list). Press Releases on United Nations Reform were sent to keep our members and others better informed. Networking with other nongovernmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council is accomplished by membership in the NGO Committee on the Status of Women, the NGO Committee on UNIFEM, the NGO Committee on Migration, the Council of Organizations of United Nations Association of the United States of America (UNA/USA) and by attending the annual Department of Public Information (DPI) Conferences in September and meetings of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in March. UNIFEM/USA has participated in United Nations conferences as observers and participants in side events in order to increase our understanding of the work of the United Nations and to network with other NGOs. UNIFEM/USA hosts an annual luncheon for 200 people at the United Nations during the meetings of the CSW. Prior to the meetings of the CSW, we have submitted written statements (E/CN.6/2006/NGO/25) or have signed on with those of other NGOs.

Our representatives have attended the following CSW meetings in New York City in this reporting period: 47th Session: 3–14 March 2003 focusing on 1) participation and access to women to the media and 2) women's human rights and elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls; 48th Session: 1-12 March 2004 focusing on 1) the role of men and boys in achieving gender equality and 2) women's equal participation in conflict prevention, management and conflict resolution and in post-conflict peace-building; 49th Session: 28 February–11 March 2005 focusing on

1) a review of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the 23rd session of the General Assembly and 2) current challenges and forward looking strategies for the advancement and empowerment of women and girls; 50th Session: 27 February – 10 March 2006 focusing on 1) enhanced participation of women in development: an enabling environment for achieving gender equality and the advancement of women, taking into account, inter alia, the fields of education, health and work and 2) equal participation of women and men in decision-making processes at all levels.

UNIFEM/USA representatives have attended the following conferences presented by the Department of Public Information (DPI) in this reporting period: 56th Conference: 8-10 September 2003 entitled "Human Security and Dignity: Fulfilling the Promise of the United Nations", 57th Conference: 8-10 September 2004 entitled "Millennium Development Goals: Civil Society Takes Action", 58th Conference: 7-9 September 2005 entitled "Our Challenge: Voices for Peace, Partnerships and Renewal", 59th Conference: 6-8 September 2006 entitled "Unfinished Business: Effective Partnerships for Human Security and Sustainable Development".

Relative to the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), our representatives continue to contact government officials in Washington, D.C. to encourage the United States to sign on.

The United States Committee for UNIFEM remains committed to the support of UNIFEM and to advancement in the achievement of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, particularly, but not exclusively, Goal #3 concerning the elimination of gender disparity.

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Contents

		Page
1.	Earthjustice	2
2.	Howard Center for Family, Religion and Society	5
3.	Initiatives — Women in Development	6
4.	International Fellowship of Reconciliation	8
5.	Shimin Gaikou Centre	10

* Reports submitted by non-governmental organizations are issued without formal editing.

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1. Earthjustice

(Special consultative status granted in 1991)

1. Introduction

i. Aims and purpose of the organization

Earthjustice, formerly known as the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund, is a non-profit, public interest, environmental law organization whose purpose is to provide advice concerning environmental laws, their content, and application on behalf of other non-profit organizations with an interest in protecting, preserving and enhancing the natural and human environment. Earthjustice provides legal representation for other organizations in courts in the United States of America and before international tribunals.

Earthjustice promotes the development of international environmental rights and standards through participation in the United Nations Commission on Human Rights (Commission) and now the Human Rights Council (Council), as well as the United Nations Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (Sub-Commission). In addition, Earthjustice educates members and others regarding international environmental rights and standards.

ii. Significant organizational changes

Change in by-laws

Earthjustice's by-laws were amended in 2005, by the following resolution:

RESOLUTION: Bylaws to be amended in March 2005 to show that the chair's term will be two years with the possibility of serving an additional or third year upon mutual agreement.

2. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

i. Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or conferences and other United Nations meetings.

a. *United Nations Commission on Human Rights, Geneva, Switzerland*

Earthjustice representatives attended every session of the Commission during the reporting period. Earthjustice's participation included working with United Nations officials and members of governmental and non-governmental delegations to promote human rights and the environment.

At the 59th session of the Commission (17 March – 25 April 2003) Earthjustice delivered an oral statement concerning the violation of human rights of rural communities in the Narmada Valley in India. Earthjustice also made a joint oral intervention with Human Rights Advocates on Agenda Item 10 concerning toxic wastes and related economic, social, and cultural rights. In support of the statement, Earthjustice organized a public event on April 15, 2003 titled "When globalisation hits the poorest" at the Geneva Postgraduate Institute of Development Studies. Earthjustice actively participated in the discussions with Commission Members and Observers for the adoption of Resolution 2003/71 on "Human rights and the environment as part of sustainable development". In support of these discussions, Earthjustice organized a side event on April 10 on "What human rights follow-up after Johannesburg?" with the participation of the Office of the High Commissioner

on Human Rights (OHCHR), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). Earthjustice also published and circulated the 2003 edition of its report "Issue Paper: Human Rights and the Environment, April 2003".

At the 60th session of the Commission (15 March – 23 April 2004) Earthjustice made a joint oral intervention with Human Rights Advocates on Agenda Item 10 concerning toxic wastes and related economic, social, and cultural rights. As a follow-up to Resolution 2003/71 on "Human rights and the environment as part of sustainable development", Earthjustice, with the governments of Costa Rica and South Africa, organized a side event on April 6, 2004 on human rights and the environment with the participation of UNEP, UNECE and the Law Faculty of Geneva University. Earthjustice also published and circulated the 2004 edition of its report "Issue Paper: Human Rights and the Environment, April, 2004".

At the 61st session of the Commission (14 March – 22 April 2005) Earthjustice actively participated in discussions with the governments of Costa Rica, Switzerland and South Africa and Commission Members and Observers for the adoption of Resolution 2005/60 on "Human rights and the environment as part of sustainable development". In support of this resolution, Earthjustice delivered an oral statement under Agenda Item 17 concerning the impact of environmental degradation on the rights of the poor. Earthjustice also made a joint oral intervention with Human Rights Advocates on Agenda Item 10 concerning toxic wastes and related economic, social, and cultural rights. Finally, Earthjustice also published and circulated the "Environmental Rights Report; Human Rights and the Environment, April 2005" and presented it at a side event on April 8, 2005.

Earthjustice attended the 62nd and final session of the Commission (13-27 March 2006), during which there was no substantial discussion and only one intervention on behalf of the NGOs.

b. Human Rights Council, Geneva, Switzerland

Earthjustice attended the 1st session of the Human Rights Council (19-30 June, 2006) and organized a side event with Ms. Wangari Mathai, the 2004 Nobel Prize winner, who was one of the key speakers at the opening ceremony of the Council.

Earthjustice participated in the 2nd session of the Human Rights Council (18 September – 6 October, 2006) as well as the sessions of the working groups on the institutional building of the Council that followed.

c. United Nations Sub-Commission for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, Geneva, Switzerland

Earthjustice attended several sessions of the Sub-Commission, as well as the Social Forum of the Sub-Commission in July 2002, during the reporting period.

d. United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)

Earthjustice attended several meetings of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) relating to the Aarhus Convention. Earthjustice participated in all the meetings of the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee (1st - March 2003; 2nd - September 2003; 3rd -January 2004; 4th - May 2004; 5th - September 2004; 6th - December 2004; 7th - January 2005; 8th - May 2005;

9th - October 2005; 10th - December 2005; 11th - March 2006; 12th - June 2006; 13th - October 2006; 14th - December 2006 in Geneva, Switzerland). Earthjustice participated in the Second Meeting of the Parties (MOP2) in Almaty, Kazakhstan in May 2005, and was actively involved in the discussions on the Almaty Declaration and on the MOP2 resolutions. Earthjustice made an oral statement with Eco-Forum on the work of the Compliance Committee of the Aarhus Convention.

ii. Cooperation with United Nations programs and/or specialized agencies

During the reporting period, Earthjustice consulted with and presented research materials to the Commission's Special Rapporteur on the adverse effects of illicit movement and dumping of toxic and dangerous products and wastes on the enjoyment of human rights, as well as the Special Rapporteur on the right to decent housing and the Special Rapporteur on indigenous people. Earthjustice representatives have met with government officials and other non-governmental organizations to promote the recommendations in the final report of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Toxics concerning human rights and the environment.

In preparation for the 60th session of the Commission, and in order to draft the report on Human Rights and the Environment requested by Resolution 2003/71, Earthjustice organized a meeting on 14 November, 2003 at the Geneva International Environment House. The meeting's participants included the representatives from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), UNECE and the Secretariats of the Basel, the Stockholm and the Aarhus Conventions. Earthjustice also made a presentation at the Round Table on Human Rights and the Environment event, organized on 12 March, 2004. The event, for the Permanent Mission to the United Nations in Geneva, was organized by UNEP, Switzerland and the Geneva Environmental Network.

Earthjustice representatives also worked closely with, and provided materials to, the Secretariat of the Convention on Hazardous Waste in Basel, Switzerland various UNEP programs in Geneva, and the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights in Geneva.

Earthjustice also participated in the 3rd Preparatory Committee of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM), in Vienna in September 2005.

Finally, Earthjustice made oral interventions at the UNEP National Committee Meetings in Geneva.

iii. Initiatives undertaken by the organization in support of internationally agreed development goals, in particular, the Millennium Development Goals

Earthjustice has focused its activities on promoting awareness about the linkages between Goal 7 (ensure environmental sustainability) and Goal 1 (eradicate extreme poverty and hunger). To this end, Earthjustice held an event for the Permanent Mission to the UN in Geneva with the participation of The World Conservation Union (IUCN) and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) about "Environment and Human Rights: the Struggle against Poverty", on April 12, 2005 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva.

2. Howard Center for Family, Religion and Society

(Special consultative status granted in 2003)

PART I. Introduction

The purpose of The Howard Center is to engage meaningful dialogue on the family and serve as a rally center for the world's family systems grounded in religions faith In the spirit of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Article 16-3) which states "the family is the natural and fundamental unit of society," The Howard Center has founded the World Congress of Families, an international conference which is designed to foster thought, public policy, and action favoring the family. There have been no changes that have had a significant impact on The Howard Center's vision and/or functions.

PART II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

i) Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or major conferences and other United Nations meetings.

The Howard Center representatives have attended three United Nations Economic and Social Council meetings during this report's review period:

49th Commission on the Status of Women 28 February – 11 March 2005, New York City, United States of America. The Howard Center representatives attended and lobbied issues related to human trafficking and women's health. Additionally, The Howard Center also co-sponsored a NGO workshop side event at the 49th Commission on the Status of Women titled "Reproductive Health Information for Women".

50th Commission on the Status of Women 27 February – 10 March 2006, New York City, United States of America. The Howard Center representatives attended and lobbied issues related to women's health.

Eighth Session of the Ad Hoc Committee on a Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities 14-25 August 2006, New York, United States of America. The Howard Center representative attended and lobbied on disabilities health issues and the dignity and inherent worth of the human person.

10th Anniversary of the International Year of the Family Committee 4 December 2003, New York. This high level seminar on the family was created to promote the family and work together for the celebration of the IYF+10 at the United Nations and worldwide.

ii) Initiatives undertaken in support of the Millennium Development Goals

The Howard Center has focused its activities in support of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) through its primary project, The World Congress of Families, and all of its fifteen current or planned projects. Research has shown that the natural family unit is the best tool to combat poverty and hunger (MDG Goal 1), promote education (MDG Goal 2), improve maternal health (MDG Goal 4), and combat diseases (MDG Goal 5). As such, The Howard Center has concentrated its energies to build a greater understanding of the family and foster a network among family advocates at the national and international levels. During the period of this report, The Howard Center hosted the 3rd World Congress of the Families event in

Mexico City, Mexico 29-31 March 2004. Over 3,300 delegates from more than 60 nations attended this event and it influenced ideas, policies, and action concerning the family around the globe. Also within this report's period The Howard Center planned the 4th World Congress of Families which was held in Warsaw, Poland 11-13 May 2007.

The organization has not participated further in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies due to scarce funds and a volunteer only representative staff. These problems have made attendance of many international meetings outside of New York City difficult. Additionally, these problems have also made it difficult for The Howard Center to work with the United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters.

3. Initiatives — Women in Development

(Special consultative status granted in 1999)

Part I

(i) IWID is an initiative by a group of women from NGOs across India formed in 1989. IWID emerged in response to the need of the women's movement in India to provide conceptual input and to strengthen women as individuals and groups has consistently worked to foreground women's rights and bring a gender perspective into the political discourse. Eighteen years after its founding and through many upheavals in the regions' context and history, IWID has persisted in addressing Gender issues at various levels. We aim to build the organizational capacity of civil society organizations and government organizations to empower women and sensitize men on gender issues, to influence policies of formal and informal; institutions at local, national and International levels in favour of women. We carry forward the mission through activities of training, research, documentation, campaigning and networking.

Part II - Activities in the reporting period

Beijing +10 Conference: Forty-Ninth Session of the Commission of the Status of Women, 28th February and 11th March 2005, New York. Representatives of the organization participated and lobbied towards land rights for women.

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (United Nations ESCAP) High level Inter Governmental Meeting on Beijing Platform for Action, 7th-10th November 2004, Bangkok, Thailand. Participated and lobbied for land rights for women. The denial of land rights for women were highlighted and effective lobbying was carried out to include land rights for women in the United Nations outcome document. BEIJING + 10 Review - ASIA pacific NGO forum, 1-3 July 2004, Bangkok, Thailand. This brought together many activists from the Asia pacific region. IWID being active during the pre as well as the post Beijing process participated in the event. The NGO forum provided space to present the concerns from India and also to clearly point out the gaps in the implementation process of Beijing Platform For Action.

10th International Women's Health Meet - Programme on Women's Economic, Social and cultural rights organized a **workshop with the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Right to Health**, Mr. Paul Hunt at the 10th International Women's

Health Meet on **24th September 2005 at New Delhi**. IWID representative participated in the workshop and raised women's health concerns in India. IWID also presented a paper on Tsunami Disaster and its Impact on women's health in the above Health Meet.

Advance Training Course on Economic Social and Cultural (ESC) Rights - IWID is one of the Core group member of Beyond the Circle a National level network committed towards strengthening ESC rights in India has contributed towards ESC rights protection and Promotion from a gender perspective. Co-facilitated the **Advanced training Course on Economic Social and Cultural rights at Chiangmai, Thailand from 13th to 20th May 2006** in which participants from 15 countries participated. The entire course adopted The International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) as the framework.

Engendering 11th National Planning Commission of India

IWID actively participates in the process of Engendering **11th Five year plan** along with other women activists. A stream of activities carried over in this regard like regional and national consultations, formation of 'Think Tank' to incorporate gender specific demands in view of CEDAW and Beijing Platform for Action.

Documentation- IWID is committed and has strong belief in the United Nations processes and mechanisms. Hence in the reporting period following booklets has been published and widely shared among Non Governmental Organizations, State parties and other civil society organizations.

Right to food-The right to food booklet deconstructs and then reconstructs issues and meaning so as to clarify interconnections and linkages. The deconstruction of the right to food includes the goods and services that constitute food.

This booklet content includes defining the understanding and meaning of the right to food, emerging issues in terms of consumption, production and distribution and discusses the civic intervention for ensuring the right to adequate food.

Circle of Rights - The booklet aims at providing perspective clarity on ESC rights and can be used as a training manual. It presents an overview of the International commitments, discusses the issues and concerns relating to ESC rights, and highlights the accountability of State in protecting and promoting ESC rights. This booklet further discusses in detail right to adequate food, housing, health and education from ICESCR perspective.

Women and Housing - The Housing rights situation in India calls for a concerted efforts of all civil society organizations to recognize the housing rights as an important issue and also to lobby for change in policies and programmes. Therefore the booklet attempted to enlarge the scope of the definition of Housing and also to understand women's perspective on housing through analysis of national and International obligations, especially ICESCR and CEDAW.

Hand book on CEDAW -The handbook is an effort to enhance and deepen the understanding on CEDAW, its coverage and potential. It covers conceptual, substantive and contextual issues, addressing complexities within each to provide information as well as encourage inquiry and application of the Convention. The focus on concepts and principles cuts across sectors and fields of application to wider user range.

Multi media Kit- The need for resource material to strengthen the clarity on concepts related to Gender issues has emerged as a strong need of NGOs who have participated in the training of IWID. In view of this IWID had already brought out a Gender Glossary in print, which is a compilation of terms in relation to gender, undoubtedly contributing to the Feminist thinking. To further the reach out using electronic media a Multi-media Kit Gender Bender - a Glossary on Gender was brought out.

"Doob", a documentary film on Land Rights and Displacement- This documentary is focused on the rehabilitation and resettlement condition of the project affected people of Madhya Pradesh due to the Sardar Sarovar Project. In this document, the people who have been forcibly displaced from their native land to unknown territories share their condition and experience with regard to different aspects of the resettlement process being carried out by the state. It also focuses on women's issues and problems rising out of the rehabilitation process. The duration of the film is 37 minutes and is available in English.

4. International Fellowship of Reconciliation

(Special consultative status granted in 1979)

PART I. Introduction

The International Fellowship of Reconciliation (IFOR) is an international, multi-faith movement of women and men committed to active non-violence as a way of life and as a means of political, social, and economic transformation. Founded in 1919, the IFOR has branches, groups, and affiliates in more than forty countries world-wide and maintains an international secretariat in the Netherlands. Its activities for reconciliation, peace-building and conflict resolution are conducted with the support of its international program staff and United Nations representatives and in cooperation with its network of member branches and affiliates. Since 2003, IFOR has increased its membership by reaching out to faith communities and particularly to women in conflict areas in Africa and Asia.

PART II. Contribution of IFOR to the work of the United Nations

IFOR maintains permanent representatives at the United Nations in New York, Geneva, and Vienna. They regularly participate in conferences and meetings of United Nations bodies, providing testimony and expertise from different regional perspectives, promoting non-violent alternatives in the fields of human rights, development, and disarmament, and act as a conduit for information concerning United Nations activities to the IFOR network worldwide. During the period 2003 - 2006, IFOR was active in promoting a number of United Nations-related initiatives, in particular the United Nations Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-violence for the Children of the World (2001-2010), and the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security. This focus was reflected in the work of IFOR core programs in the fields of Nonviolent Education and Training, and Women's Peacemaking. Other United Nations-related activities concentrated on participation in the proceedings of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, of the Sub-Commission for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, and in preparatory meetings of United Nations Conferences (especially the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty).

i) Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or major conferences and other United Nations meetings (this is a partial list)

1. 60th Session of the Commission on Human Rights, 15 March - 23 April 2004, Geneva. IFOR submitted a written statement on Item 9 of the Provisional Agenda, on the theme of the question of the violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms in any part of the world. At the same session IFOR submitted a written statement on Item11g, on the theme of Conscientious Objection.

2. 61st Session of the Commission on Human Rights, 14 March - 22 April 2005, Geneva. IFOR submitted an oral statement on Agenda Item 17, on the promotion and protection of human rights, on the theme of the death penalty imposed on Conscious Objectors to Military Service.

3. 57th Session of the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, 25 July – 12 August 2005, Geneva. IFOR submitted an oral statement on Agenda Item 2, Violations of Human Rights in all Countries, on the theme of Jehovah witnesses condemned as Conscious Objectors in the Republic of Korea and in other countries.

4. 62nd Session of the Commission on Human Rights, 15 March – 27 March, Geneva. IFOR took part in drafting and presenting the NGO Statement to the Final Session of the Commission on Human Rights.

ii) Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

1. IFOR has continued to circulate the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Manifesto 2000 for a Culture of Peace both among international NGOs and within its own world-wide network. IFOR branches and affiliates supported the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Year by highlighting the Culture of Peace at national and regional gatherings, through publicity campaigns and through the development of educational materials and training modules. On this theme IFOR also took part in the 4ie Forum in Paris: La non-violence a l'école, organized by the Coordination Française pour la décennie.

iii) Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

- Goal 3. Promote gender equality and empower women

    1. Once per year, in 2004, 2005 and 2006 IFOR's Women Peacemaker Program (WPP) offered a Training of Trainer workshop to approximately 16 women from around the world. The principal themes of these workshops are gender equality and non-violence.

    2. In 2004-2005 IFOR's WPP supported 33 trainings in 13 countries covering 5 continents. 749 women and 307 men took part in these "gender-sensitive non-violence trainings." (1,056 people trained)

PART III. Other Relevant Activities

i) Action in Implementation of United Nations Resolutions

1. IFOR has actively promoted the United Nations Decade for a Culture of Peace and Nonviolence for the Children of the World (2001-2010) on regional and national levels. IFOR branches were instrumental in building an international coalition of national and international NGOs supporting the United Nations Decade. The International Coalition for the Decade continues to work closely with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Culture of Peace program. One of the main goals of the Coalition in connection with the United Nations Decade is the development of peace education programs in schools world-wide. To this end IFOR's most recent project aims to develop effective strategies for violence prevention in kindergartens, and is supported by a grant from the European Commission.

2. Through its Women Peacemaker Program (WPP), IFOR is actively promoting the United Nations's Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security by training women in the use of nonviolent conflict transformation. In addition to incorporating United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 in all its trainings, WPP also promotes the goals of the Resolution in all the public events it holds.

ii) Consultations and Cooperation with Officials of the United Nations Secretariat

IFOR is a member of several NGO committees based in New York and Geneva which maintain working relations with different United Nations offices and officials. Of particular interest is the NGO Working Groups on Israel/Palestine and the NGO Working Group on Iraq, both based in New York, and in Geneva the NGO Committee on the Freedom of Religion or Belief. These committees have played an important role in gathering and expressing NGO support for United Nations-related initiatives in these specific areas and in the preparation of a number of conferences such as the Department of Public Informational/Non-Governmental Organization Annual Conference.

5. Shimin Gaikou Centre (Citizens' Diplomatic Centre for the Rights of Indigenous Peoples)

(Special consultative status granted in 1999)

Part I. Introduction

Brief introductory statement recalling the aims and purposes of the organization and its main course of action.

The Shimin Gaikou Centre (Citizens' Diplomatic Centre for the Rights of Indigenous Peoples) is a human rights NGO that has been involving in the movements of protection and promotion of the indigenous peoples' rights since the establishment in 1982 under the United Nations Charter's principles on international cooperation, peace and human rights. The Centre had the honor of being given the special consultative status with the ECOSOC in 1999. This is the second

quadrennial report of the Centre to the United Nations. The Centre has benefited greatly from the special consultative status because it has been able to strengthen its activities to protect and promote human rights in the global context. In the past four years, the Centre's structure on decision-making and finance was virtually unchanged. Although the membership is open to everyone beyond borders, the board of directors is composed of Japanese citizens. This is mainly because the Centre has not had any branch or affiliate in foreign countries due to budget constraint. Despite the management on slender budget, the Centre has established cooperation with other international NGOs and Indigenous People's Organizations. The Centre's source of funding greatly depends on income from the membership fees of over 320 ordinary citizens. The proportion of the entire budget coming from the membership fees has been 95% in 2003, 99% in 2004, 98% in 2005 and 99% in 2006. The executive board members evaluate the financial stability of the Centre every year, and conclude that the Centre has a solid financial basis and that the Centre's activities have contributed to enhancing the human rights of indigenous peoples following the UN Charter and the guidelines of the ECOSOC.

Part II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

i) Participation in the work of the ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies and/or major conferences and other United Nations meetings

<2003>

- Representatives attended the 2nd session of Permanent Forum on the Indigenous Issues (PFII) that was held from 12 to 23 May in New York.

- President attended the UNESCO's International Experts Meeting on "Renewing the Struggle against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance" that was held from 4 to 5 June in Osaka, Japan.

- Representatives attended the 21st session of Working Group on Indigenous Populations (WGIP) that was held from 21 to 25 July in Geneva.

- A Representative attended the 9th session of Open-ended inter-sessional Working Group on the Draft Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (WGDD) that was held from 15 to 26 September in Geneva.

<2004>

- President attended the 60th session of Commission on Human Rights (CHR) which was held from 18 March to 29 April in Geneva.

- Representatives attended the 22nd session of Working Group on Indigenous Populations that was held from 19 to 23 July in Geneva.

- Representatives attended the 10th session of Open-ended inter-sessional Working Group on the Draft Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples that was held from 13 to 24 September and from 29 November to 3 December in Geneva.

<2005>

- A Representative attended the 61st session of Commission on Human Rights which was held from 13 March to 22 April in Geneva.

- Representatives attended the 4th session of Permanent Forum on the Indigenous Issues that was held from 16 to 27 May in New York.

- Representatives attended the 23rd session of Working Group on Indigenous Populations that was held from 18 to 22 July in Geneva.

- Representatives attended the 11th session of Open-ended inter-sessional Working Group on the Draft Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples that was held from 5 to 16 December in Geneva.

<2006>

- Representatives attended the 5th session of Permanent Forum on the Indigenous Issues that was held from 15 to 27 May in New York.

ii) Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

- Organized the Consultation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights which was held on 8 November 2004 in Tokyo, Japan. (The meeting was organized by the International Human Rights Network, and Shimin Gaikou Centre is one of the leading organizations in the network.)

- Submitted a Joint Proposal by NGOs on United Nations Reform to United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service in response to an invitation of Chairperson of the United Nations General Assembly on June 28, 2005, as a member of Japan NGO Network on United Nations Reform.

- Supported the Formal Visit of the CHR's Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance to Japan that was held from 3 to 11 July, 2005 in cooperation with IMADR. (See E/CN.4/2006/16/Add.2, January 24 2006.)

- Organized the Second Public Forum on the United Nations Reform that was held on 2 February 2006 in Tokyo, Japan, with the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) in cooperation with United Nations Information Centre.

- Supported the Informal Visit of the CHR's Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance to Japan that was held from 13 to 18 May, 2006 in cooperation with IMADR. (See A/61/335.)

iii) Initiatives undertaken by the organization in support of internationally agreed development goals

<2003>

- Organized the Internal Strategic Meeting on the Progress in the WGDD which was held on 11 January in Tokyo, Japan.

- A Representative attended the United Nations Strategic Meeting of the Asian Indigenous Peoples which was held from 26 to 29 January in Kathmandu, Nepal.

- A Representative attended the United Nations Strategic Meeting of the Asian Indigenous Peoples which was held from 3 to 9 August in Chiangmai, Thailand.

- Organized the Internal Strategic Meeting on the Progress in the WGDD which was held on 10 October in Tokyo, Japan.

<2004>

- A Representative attended the Strategic Meeting of the Asian Indigenous Peoples which was held from 6 to 10 January in Bangkok, Thailand.

- Organized a Meeting for Dialogue between the Asian Indigenous Peoples and the Governments on 30 November in Geneva.

- Organized a Seminar on the Progress in the WGDD on 18 December in Tokyo, Japan in cooperation with the Japan Citizens' Coalition for the United Nations International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples.

<2005>

- Organized the first Public Forum on the United Nations Reform on 30 August in Tokyo, Japan. (The Public Forum was organized by the Japan NGO Network on United Nations Reform and the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Japan NGO Network consists of three NGOs, including the Shimin Gaikou Centre, the Peace Boat and Japan International Volunteer Center.)

<2006>

- A Representative attended the Workshop on the Concept of Indigenous Peoples in Asia organized by Asian Indigenous Peoples Pact from 1 to 3 March in Chiangmai, Thailand.

- A Representative attended the Preparatory Meeting for the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues by Asian Indigenous Peoples Pact that was held from 6 to 10 April in Pelabhuhan Latu, Indonesia.

- Organized the Workshop on the Second Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples that was held from 25 to 26 March in Tokyo, Japan.

- Organized the Special Seminar on United Nations Reform and the Indigenous Peoples which was held on 3 June in Tokyo, Japan.

- Organized the third Public Forum on the United Nations Reform on 25 July in Tokyo, Japan. (The Public Forum was organized by the Japan NGO Network on United Nations Reform and the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Shimin Gaikou Centre is a member NGO of the Japan NGO Network.)

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Note by the Secretary-General

Contents

		Page
1.	Korean Federation for Environmental Movement	2
2.	Organization for Defending Victims of Violence	4
3.	People's Decade of Human Rights Education	7
4.	Union Nationale de la Femme Tunisienne	9

* Reports submitted by non-governmental organizations are issued without formal editing.

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1. Korean Federation for Environmental Movement

(Special; 1998)

PART I. Introduction

i) Aims and Purposes of the organization

The Korean Federation for Environmental Movements is a grassroots environmental NGO of the Republic of Korea working to find solutions to environmental problems both in the Republic of Korea and around the world. KFEM also advocates for communities and wildlife negatively impacted by rapid economic growth, industrialization, and urbanization. KFEM works to build public awareness of environmental degradation, to conserve the natural resources of the Earth, and to achieve an environmentally sound and just society in which people can live in peace and harmony with nature.

ii) Changes in the organization vision and function

While the organization's aims and purposes have remained the same, KFEM's General Assembly of National Representatives approved an amendment on 26 February 2005 to change the English name of the organization from "Korean Federation for Environmental Movement" to "Korea Federation for Environmental Movements."

KFEM also became a full member of the network of international environmental organizations, Friends of the Earth International. Approval was granted during the Biennial General Meeting of Friends of the Earth International, held from 27 September to 2 October, 2004, in Zagreb, Croatia, with KFEM becoming "Friends of the Earth South Korea." KFEM's General Assembly of National Representatives then approved the membership on 26 February 2005.

PART II. Contribution of the Organization to the United Nations

i) Participation in the work of the ECOSOC and/or other United Nations Conferences KFEM was very active in attending several UN conferences. A KFEM representative attended the Third and Fourth Summit Preparatory Committee (PREP COM 3 and 4) for the World Summit on Sustainable Development from 1 to 5 April 2002, in New York, United States of America and from 27 May-5 June 2002, in Bali, Indonesia, respectively. There KFEM worked to not only network with other environmental NGOs but also to raise the profile of the World Summit within the Republic of Korea. KFEM then facilitated the attendance of a group of journalists, environmentalists, and academics of the Republic of Korea, and several KFEM representatives at the World Summit on Sustainable Development, 26 August - 4 September 2002, Johannesburg, South Africa in order to help spread the message of sustainable development in the Republic of Korea and increase opportunities for international collaboration.

A KFEM representative attended the 8th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), 23 October - 1 November 2002, New Delhi, India, and KFEM representatives attended the 11th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework

Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), 28 November - 9 December 2005, Montreal, Canada. KFEM attended these meetings in order to learn more about ways to combat climate change and thus bring this information back to other environmentalists of the Republic of Korea.

A KFEM representative attended the 6th Convention on Biological Diversity Conference of the Parties, 7 - 9 April 2002, Hague, the Netherlands in order to raise awareness about biological diversity in the Republic of Korea, especially in regards to wetlands and the Demilitarized Zone separating the two countries. Wetlands were again a focus when KFEM representatives attended the 8th and 9th Meetings of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar Convention) from 18 - 26 November 2002 in Valencia, Spain and from 8 - 15 November 2005 in Kampala, Uganda. KFEM was very active in these meetings in terms of convincing both the Ramsar Convention and the Ministry of the Environment of the Republic of Korea to host the 10th Ramsar Convention in the Republic of Korea in 2008. Through these meetings KFEM hopes to raise awareness of the importance of wetlands conservation in the Republic of Korea and the world.

KFEM has also been very active in promoting transnational civil society in Asia through attending several United Nations sponsored meetings. Along with attending Asia-wide meetings in Thailand in 2002, 2003, and 2004, KFEM played a seminal role in organizing the 5th Global Civil Society Forum organized by the United Nations Environment Program, 27 - 29 March 2004, Jeju, Republic of Korea. Not only did KFEM arrange for numerous NGOs to attend the meeting, KFEM representatives were also particularly active in that meeting, ensuring that the voices of the Global South were heard alongside of NGOs from developed countries.

ii) **Initiatives undertaken by the organization in support of internationally agreed development goals, in particular, the Millennium Development Goals**

KFEM played a leading role in mobilizing NGOs in the Republic of Korea and major groups to get involved in the process of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in 2002, helping groups to understand the importance of the WSSD. KFEM led the formation of the "Korean People's Network on RIO+ 10" which consisted of 44 civil society organizations that participated in the WSSD. KFEM also organized a well-attended workshop, "Evaluation of Korean society's sustainability and future directions" on 28 August 2002, in Johannesburg, South Africa during the WSSD.

KFEM raised funds for the Tsunami stricken countries in South and Southeast Asia, in particular so that they could educate their children and plant mangrove trees in areas affected by the Tsunami. KFEM also conducted a fact-finding mission to Sri Lanka from 5 to 14 July 2005 to find out the impacts of the Tsunami on the environment and people and to find ways to support their reconstruction. The information gathered during that trip was then used when organizing the "International Conference on Impacts of Tsunami on Environment and Woman's Health and Effective Response" with three other organizations in the Republic of Korea on 13 September 2005. This conference raised awareness among the people, media, and decision makers of the Republic of Korea on the need for international aid to help the Tsunami-stricken countries rebuild in an environmentally friendly and sustainable way.

2. Organization for Defending Victims of Violence

(Special; 1998)

Part I: Introduction:

The Organization for Defending Victims of Violence (ODVV) is a non-profit, non-political and non-governmental organization. The ODVV's main activities centre on the promotion and education of human rights, and a culture of non-violence. Since 2000, the ODVV has been a member of the "Network for the rehabilitation of victims of Violence and Torture in the Middle East and North Africa (IRCT - AMAN)".

Over recent years the ODVV has established a Rehabilitation Centre for victims of society and domestic violence. The Centre is run by a team of experts that include psychologists, psychiatrists, counselors, legal aid advisers, and since January 2007, the Centre has been equipped with four telephone hotlines as part of an ODVV five-year group project with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) entitled "National Capacity-building, Strengthening and Promotion of Human Rights".

Part II: Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations:

(i) Participation in the work of the Economic and social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or major conferences and other United Nations meetings

From 1999 until 2005 the ODVV participated in the United Nations Commission on Human Rights (UNCHR) sessions that were held in Geneva annually in March and April. Having consultative status enabled, the ODVV to present written and oral statements on various items of the working agenda. The ODVV also participated in the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002. The ODVV participated in the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) on 10-12 December 2003 in Geneva. The ODVV participated in the Freedom of Expression in Cyberspace Conference, which was held by UNICEF in February 2005 in Paris as the second phase of the World Summit on Information Society (WSIS).

(ii) Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

ODVV collaborated with the United Nations Development Programme on the "Promotion of Human Rights and Access to Justice" group project, which aimed for the "promotion of human rights" and "access to justice" in the framework of good governance, from 2004-2007. With the United Nations Population Fund, the ODVV drafted and implemented the "Training Counselors on Family Court Procedures Project" at Tehran's Family Court Complex **No.1,** Islamic Republic of Iran, in 2006. Based on the idea that raising women's awareness of their rights and related current laws can solve a lot of the issues that this section of the Iranian society face with when going to courts, this project aimed to assist the major part of those that refer to the justice system - namely women.

In 2005, with the cooperation of practically all the United Nations agencies, a project entitled "the Promotion of Human Rights Culture in Schools" took shape in the Islamic Republic of Iran. Due to the success of this project, it continued on into 2006. The project involved the introduction of secondary school students to the United Nations system and its mechanisms and objectives and the students visited the United Nations agencies representations. Due to the success of the aforementioned course a similar course was held for journalists and civil society activists. Fourteen United Nations agencies in the Islamic Republic of Iran took part in this project in 2006.

On 20 June 2002, with the cooperation of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the ODVV held a commemoration ceremony on the occasion of world Refugee Day in Tehran's Miraseh Farhanig Keshvar (National Heritage Centre). The ceremony included short theatrical and musical performances by Afghan refugee artists about their plight over the two decades in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

To-date two joint projects have been conducted with the International Organization for Migration. The first was the "Project Formulation Education Course" that was held in the summer of 2005 in the ODVV conference hall, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran for 50 Iranian NGOs activists. The second project was the "Series of Technical Panels on Human Trafficking in Women and Children." This ongoing event covers the years 2006-07 and is held in the ODVV conference hall, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran.

The United Nations named the years 1995-2004 the Decade of Human Rights Education. With this in mind the ODVV placed Human Rights education in its working agenda. Over the years, several Human Rights education courses have been organized by the ODVV for various governmental and nongovernmental sectors of society. These courses include: Human Rights Education Course of the Youth; Human Rights Education Course for NGOs Activists; Human Rights Education Course for Judicial Science Students; Human Rights Education Course for Governmental and Nongovernmental Managers of Kerman Province; Human Rights Education Course for Judges of Tehran Province; Human Rights Education Course for Religious Minorities.

All these courses fell into two categories: domestic and international. The education courses for the youth, religious minorities and governmental and nongovernmental managers were held in one phase in the Islamic Republic of Iran. But the courses for judicial science students, NGOs activists, and judges of Tehran Province, were held in two phases. The first phase of the course took place in Tehran with the cooperation of Shahid Beheshti; Alame Tabatabee; and Judicial Science Universities who contributed by providing lecturers for the courses. The second phase of these courses was set to coincide with the United Nations Commission on Human Rights annual sessions held in Geneva in March/April of each year. A number of the individuals that attended these courses in Tehran, were selected for their language skills and overall achievements of the Tehran phase of the course, and accompanied the ODVV to Geneva, to gain first hand experience of the workings and mechanisms of human rights.

The empowerment process of NGOs requires practical programming in a clear and specific frame, and the implementation of this requires the role of NGOs to be as a link bridge between

society and the government. The Iranian Civil Society Organizations Resource Centre was established in 2001, following trilateral talks with the United Nations Development Program and the Interior Ministry. This centre signed a letter of agreement in 2005 in a joint project with the Interior Ministry, United Nations Development Programme, and ODVV. The ODVV accepted the task of running the centre for 2005-06. With the management of ODVV the centre managed to achieve the following objectives in the one year:

- Education courses and the empowerment of NGOs through workshops and cyberspace.
- Setting up an internet cafe and ICSORC website, IT education for NGOs.
- Setting up of international relations department to identify international sittings in regards with coordination of existing capacities of national and international NGOs for the purpose of exchanging expertise and ·study groups, and or participation in the said sittings and conferences.
- Publication and distribution of *Voluntary* newsletter.

As part of the empowerment of NGOs, the centre has held a number of education courses and workshops that include: Introduction to the United Nations System; Environmental Rights; How to get consultative status from Economic and Social Council; Capacity building of youth NGOs; IT and communications technology education. These courses were held in Tehran and a number of provincial towns. The documentation of the aforementioned is in audio, video and text formats, and includes teaching texts and assessments. The reports are readily available in the centre upon request (Farsi and English).

(iii) Initiatives undertaken by the organization in support of international agreed developments goals, in particular, the Millennium Develop Goals

Since the ODVV mandate is to realize all United Nations instruments and goals, the Millennium Development Goals - although perhaps not in full - are also included in the ODVV mandate. As one of the Millennium Development Goals is the promotion of gender equality and women's capacity building, the ODVV has worked extensively on women's issues, namely through education workshops, courses and seminars. The two aforementioned projects that were held with the cooperation of United Nations Population Fun and the United Nations Development Program are clear examples of the commitment that the ODVV has towards the realization of United Nations goals.

3. People's Decade of Human Rights Education

(Special; 1998)

PART I. Introduction

People's Decade for Human Rights Education (PDHRE) is initiating, facilitating, and developing training in human rights education and learning for societal development, economic and social justice for all in more then 60 countries around the world. In order for women and men to live in dignity within their communities, PDHRE develops learning and related socialization processes as key strategies for responding to the fundamental challenge of societal disintegration, gender inequality and the growing gap between rich and poor.

PDHRE and its affiliates in all regions, as well as educators, various social justice NGOs, and human rights experts serve as a comprehensive "extension service," to energize and motivate communities to embark on a life-long process of holistic learning about human rights as relevant to people's daily struggles and concerns; and further, to recognize human rights as a powerful tool for action, and as a way of life.

To bring power to human rights and examine the practical ways of achieving its vision and mission, PDHRE is developing Human Rights Cities and Regional Learning Institutions for each learner of human rights to eventually become a mentor and a monitor. In these cities, women and men take the critical steps towards knowing, claiming, and fulfilling their human rights — they develop critical thinking and systemic analysis of economic and social justice issues with a gender perspective and using the human rights framework as a guideline for human security and conflict resolution in order to move towards economic and social transformation in the city. In the Regional Learning Institutions a new vocation is being developed: Human Rights Educators for social transformation and societal development. Community leaders, women and men, are trained to work at the grassroots level to encourage people to assume responsibility to eradicate poverty, violence and marginalization and move the prevailing hierarchal system to a horizontal human rights system where equality triumphs over discrimination.

In order for women and men to recognize the central importance of human rights to security, peace, and the alleviation of poverty as well as achievements of economic and social development, there is a growing need to integrate the human rights framework as a guideline for peaceful action and progress. The human rights cities programmes in Africa, Asia, the Americas and Europe are concrete examples of how societal development and capacity building on a human rights basis can be achieved.

During the 2002-2005 period, PDHRE has disseminated the United Nations position on promoting the transformation of the Patriarchal order to a human rights system through human rights learning.

PART II. Contribution of the Organization to the Work of the United Nations General Activities from 2002- 2005:

The organization held discussion and learning in all its human rights cities about the MDGs within a human rights framework as was the call of the SG- with especial attention to women issues and the alleviation of Poverty. The organization had participated fully in the various meeting and activities of the Economic Social Council.

2002: PDHRE presented the side event, "Integrating a Human Rights Framework for Sustainable Development" at the United Nations Headquarters, New York, on 1 April. PDHRE presented the side event, "Human Rights as a Cross Cutting Theme for the Promotion of Indigenous Issues" at the United Nations Headquarters, New York during the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, 13-24 May. PDHRE aided the implementation of the United Nations Decade of Human Rights Education reporting to the HCHR about a partnership for HRE with UNDP at the United Nations Headquarters, New York, in July. PDHRE participated in the preparation of the document "Human Rights and the Millennium Development Goals" after Kofi Annan launched the Millennium Development Goals Campaign at the United Nations Headquarters, 21 March. PDHRE participated in the preparation of "Human Rights and the World Summit on the Information Society" in Geneva, Switzerland, 1-5 July. PDHRE took part in the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development, in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 26 August - 4 September. PDHRE published "Passport to Dignity," connecting the 12 areas of concern of the Beijing Platform for Action (BPFA) to the Human Rights Framework for the Fulfillment of Human Rights of Women of All Ages, Worldwide, 1 October.

2003: PDHRE held the workshop "Breaking through the Vicious Cycle of Humiliation from Patriarchy to a Human Rights system through the Beijing Plan of Action" during the 47th Session of the Commission of the Status of Women at the United Nations Headquarters, New York, on 6 March. PDHRE organized the Graz Declaration on Principles of Human Rights Education and Human Security and participated in the 5th Ministerial Meeting of the Human Security Network in Graz, Austria, 8-10 May. PDHRE participated in the "Global Compact Policy Dialogue: Supply Chain Management and Partnerships" meeting, United Nations Headquarters, New York, 12-13 June. PDHRE organized the side event, "From Information to Knowledge to a Human Rights Society" at the United Nations, Geneva, 3-4 November. In cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the Permanent Mission of Mali to the United Nations, PDHRE held a memorial meeting for the slain United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Sergio Vieira de Mello, as well as an interactive dialogue between governments and NGOs, in his memory, on "Societal Development through Human Rights Education and Learning on 'Freedom from Want' and 'Freedom from Fear,'" United Nations Headquarters, New York, 28 October. Shulamith Koenig, Founder of PDHRE, received the 2003 United Nations Human Rights Prize, 10 December. PDHRE participated in various meetings on the Millennium Development Goals held by the NGO Section of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

2004: PDHRE participated and held the side event "Forum on Genocide," in Stockholm, Sweden from 26-28 January. PDHRE developed, in cooperation with other NGOs, the "Proposal for the

Second Decade of Human Rights Education. (The proposal for the First Decade, 1995-2004, was authored by PDHRE.) PDHRE held an international training seminar in Rosario, Argentina with participation of United Nations Development Program (UNDP) partners in February. During this year, PDHRE developed a manual and videos about the human rights to the freedom of religion. PDHRE also held discussions and developed materials with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) Governance Section on governance and Human Rights Cities. Over the year, PDHRE held side events and participated in meetings of and at the Commission on the Status of Women, and for Indigenous People and others. PDHRE launched the Global Appeal for Human Rights Learning with signatories of note from around the world, 10 December.

2005: PDHRE prepared a paper on the Millennium Development Goals and Human Rights: "Challenges and Opportunities," January. PDHRE took part in many of the Economic and Social Council meetings where NGOs where invited to listen and speak. PDHRE gave definitive example of their work, commitment and integrity. Their presentation was published as: United Nations E/2005/NGO/21. Economic and Social Council Distr.: General, 25 May 2005 --Original: English -- 05-36534 (E) 160605 **0536534**, Substantive session of 2005 --New York, 29 June-27 July 2005 Item 2 of the provisional agenda* Statement submitted by People's Decade for Human Rights Education, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council. * E/2005/100. E/2005/NGO/21. PDHRE presented a paper on the theme of creating an environment at the national and international levels that would be conducive to generating a full and productive employment and decent work for all as well as valuing sustainable development and a statement was made by active participant Shulamith Koenig, United Nations Headquarters, New York, 23 June. PDHRE prepared a paper on empowerment of the poor through human rights literacy and legal training: integrating in the actions of the High-Level Commission on the legal empowerment of the poor the learning about human rights and the development of legal support systems. PDHRE published the definitive manual, "International Human Rights Standards on Post-disaster Resettlement and Rehabilitation" and held a training about human rights with Tsunami workers, August.

4. Union Nationale de la Femme Tunisienne

(General; 2002)

Part I. Introduction

(i) Aims and purposes of the organization

Union Nationale de la Femme Tunisienne is a national organization that was established in 1956, the year of Tunisia's independence.

Purposes

- To work for the improvement of the status of women and the elimination of all forms of discrimination against them;

- To ensure the advancement of women in all areas: economic, social cultural and scientific;
- To elaborate programmes to strengthen women's participation in development;
- To facilitate women's access to new information and communications technologies;
- To campaign for the eradication of poverty and the creation of sources of income for women, and to provide support to families in vulnerable situations;
- To act in the interest of world peace.

Main course of action

- Social integration of women through two women's crisis centres, one in Tunis and one in Sousse; the social services office; legal counselling units; and health, solidarity and literacy activities (457 literacy classes);
- Economic integration of women through 199 vocational training centres and a microcredit system that has been operational since 2005;
- Facilities for children include 37 kindergartens throughout the national territory.

Part II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

(i) Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council

(1) Participation of Union Nationale de la Femme Tunisienne in the work of the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-eighth session in April 2002 and its sixtieth session in April 2004, both held in Geneva.

(2) Representatives of Union Nationale de la Femme Tunisienne attended the following meetings relating to the status of women: Maghreb and Mediterranean Women's Council, held in Casablanca, Morocco, in June 2002; conference on "The Role of Women in Government in the Arab Gulf Region", held in Doha, Qatar, in October 2002; Congress of the Lebanese Women's Council on "Women's Participation in International Political Life", held in Lebanon in February 2004; and the World Women's Congress, held in China in December 2004.

(ii) Cooperation with United Nations agencies or specialized agencies in the field and/or at United Nations Headquarters

- Participation of Union Nationale de la Femme Tunisienne in parallel events of the second phase of the World Summit on the Information Society, organized by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) under the auspices of the United Nations, from 16 to 18 November 2005 in Tunis (Tunisia). The Union led a workshop entitled "Networking, Gender and Virtual Reality: Successful Strategies, Challenges and Opportunities".
- Cooperation with the United Nations Population Fund on awareness-raising activities on the sexual and reproductive health of youth.

(iii) Millennium Development Goals

Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

Target 1: Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than $1 a day

- Action 1: Solidarity activities on the ground through 28 UNFT regional delegations. Annual back-to-school ceremonies where assistance is given to children of needy families. In 2003, the Union helped 6,000 pupils by providing a total of 13,500 dinars in assistance.
- Action 2: Establishment of a microcredit system that has been operational since 2005 and has benefited 323 women and 118 men. Launching, in 2004, of a training centre that provides assistance to women's economic activities.

Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education

Target 3: Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling

Action 1: Substantive work is being carried out in rural areas by 28 regional delegations which provide assistance to children of needy families.

Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women

Target 4: Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and in all levels of education no later than 2015.

- Action 1: UNFT vocational training centres - 199 centres throughout the national territory in 2007 for girls who have dropped out of school.
- Action 2: UNFT literacy classes - 457 classes throughout the national territory in 2007 for rural girls or girls who have dropped out of school.
- Action 3: UNFT is working with the Ministry of Women, Family, Children and Elderly Persons to change school textbooks in order to promote equality between women and men.

Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability

Target 9: Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies

- Action 1: Awareness-raising activities on plastic waste prevention for women and children, conducted in malls in 2004.
- Action 2: Project entitled "Women and forest protection" in the Kasserine region (southwest of Tunisia).

- **Activities in support of global principles**

  Union Nationale de la Femme Tunisienne celebrated International Women's Day on 8 March 2002. The Day was marked by a seminar on information on women in Tunisia. A round table on the status of women's sports and opportunities for promoting women in sports was organized in 2003. A Training and Counselling Centre for women with special needs was also opened. International Women's Day was also celebrated in 2004 and 2005.